

METRO / A23

Chavit Singson cites 9 cases vs Umale that earned him enemies

GLOBAL PINOY / A24

Three sisters worked as domestic helpers to send PMA topnotcher to school

SIM

Man Sen. Pia looks up to is afraid of heights but set for climb of his life

NEWS / A2

GMA: I'll court-martial big-time tax evaders and smugglers



email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY

INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Gonzalez: Dinky's walk in the park violated 3 laws

By Armand N. Nocum, Tina G. Santos and Norman Bordadora

SHE MAY BE RARING TO GO PROMENADING on Roxas Boulevard again but insofar as Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez is concerned, the stroll former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman tried to take the other day breached

GONZALEZ/A19

First town ever auctioned now on sale again on eBay

BRIDGEVILLE, CALIFORNIA—"Imagine owning your own town and zip code," so goes an ad on eBay.

The first town ever auctioned on eBay will soon be back up for sale

FIRST/A10



THE VIEW FROM DINKY'S BAYWATCH: As the sun sets on Manila Bay, the bayside is enveloped in a play of shadows and colors intensely red and yellow before they flame out into the night; the seascape mirrors the yachts on the water, and tranquility becomes electric.

REM ZAMORA

Senga sets 5-pt guidance

AFP chief tells troops not to be used by politicians to oust GMA

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Philip C. Tubeza

AMID FEARS RAISED OVER THE ROLE OF THE military in the deepening political crisis, the chief of staff issued a 5-point "guidance" titled "The Role of the Armed Forces in These Trying Times."

Part of the guidance bans military involvement in any power play.

"We are not to be regarded as a potent political force to be used by politicians in the furtherance of their vested interests," Gen. Generoso Senga said.

"As mandated, we must remain

apolitical," he said.

Senga issued the command guidance on March 8, according to the Army chief, Lt. Gen. Hermonogenes Esperon. The guidance was not previously announced to the media.

Esperon yesterday told reporters that he relayed it to top

Army officials and field commanders during a command conference earlier in the day at Fort Bonifacio.

But on Thursday night at a dinner with the INQUIRER staff, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon expressed concern over purported abuses committed under President Macapagal-Arroyo's Proclamation No. 1017 and said it was time to remind soldiers that "anyone who violates the Constitution is your enemy."

"Soldiers, your duty is to defend the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines. Anyone

who violates the Constitution is your enemy. Can I now say that?" the senator said.

He said he had been holding back but that the alleged abuses under the presidential proclamation convinced him that soldiers should be reminded of their sworn duty "to defend the Constitution."

"I think it is now the proper time because of PP 1017 and the acts committed invoking [it]," he said.

"I think the President has thrown overboard all the standards of morality, of decency, of

legality, and even of delicadeza, by what she's doing," he said.

Biazon, himself a former AFP chief of staff, pointed out that while PP 1017 gave the President no special powers, it had been used to crack down on political dissenters and the media.

"The President cannot assume special powers without Congress granting these to her. The only way to do that is to violate or arrogate the Constitution and establish a revolutionary or provisional government," he said, adding:

"So what is the path she has chosen? To violate the Constitution."

On Feb. 24, the day PP 1017 declaring a state of national emergency was issued, a foiled plan by at least three military and police elite units to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo was made public.

The INQUIRER later quoted reliable sources as saying that Senga and the rest of the AFP leadership had initially agreed with the plan put forward by ex-Scout Rangers chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and

SENGA/A6

Bondi or Boracay?

Tourism ads wow Aussies

By Angelina G. Goloy
Contributor

BONDI OR BORACAY? IMAGINE Australians choosing between their world-famous beach and ours (that is, instead of Indonesia's Bali or Thailand's Phuket).

This may well be the dream scenario for Consuelo Garcia Jones, the Philippines' tourism attaché for Australia and New Zealand. Her office has launched a fresh campaign to get Australians to put the Philippines on their must-visit list.

Instead of trying to pack it all in—history and culture, natural attractions, entertainment—the

campaign zeroes in on the stuff that never fails to grab Aussies' attention: sun, sea, sand.

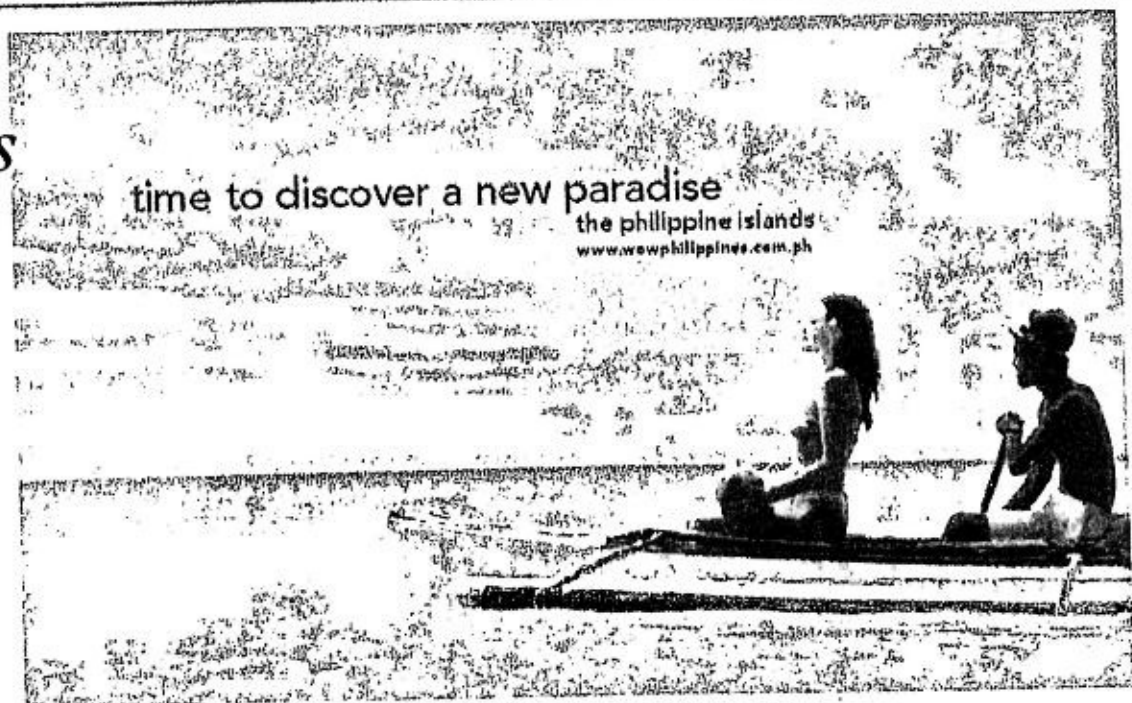
Images of exotic Philippine isles, white-sand beaches and clear blue waters have been distributed around Sydney and suburbs, and they are drawing raves and second looks.

Boracay, Palawan, Bohol and Cebu are on billboards mounted at train stations and on postcards displayed at cafes, restaurants, art galleries, bookshops, theaters and trendy places frequented especially by young professionals.

The pictures carry one message: BOND/A6

time to discover a new paradise

the philippine islands
www.philippines.com.ph



THE LIVING IS EASY: Fresh campaign of the RP tourism office in Australia heralds sun, sea and sky.

Fil-Am boy, 11, raises \$610.23 for Leyte victims

By Julie M. Aurelio

AN 11-YEAR-OLD FIL-AMERICAN boy saw footage of a landslide burying homes in Southern Leyte, and started a fundraising drive in his school in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Joseph Cachola-Prather, on Joey to family and friends, was at home in Mililani, Honolulu, watching the evening news when images of the Feb. 17 landslide, which buried Barangay Guinsaungon, St. Bernard, flashed on TV.

Perhaps it was the sight of people wading through the rain and mud that stirred Joey to give part of his allowance to the landslide survivors. The tragedy left 152 people dead, over 900 missing and thousands without homes.

But Joey, a sixth-grader, knew his allowance wasn't enough.

When he went to school the following day, he surprised his classmates by asking: "Are you going to donate to the landslide victims?"

That simple question started a fundraising drive led by Joey's homeroom class at the Holy Family Catholic Academy. In one week, his classmates were able to raise \$610.23 (\$31,150) just from their allowances and \$150 (\$7,657) from the student council.

The INQUIRER learned of Joey's good deed through the office of Loida Nicolas-Lewis, chair of the National Federation of Filipino

FIL-AM/A6

Random act of kindness saved Pinoy in Nigeria

By Volt Contreras

IT WAS WHAT ANY PRUDENT person in a strange and restive land would have done.

And Anthony Santos, a 36-year-old Filipino worker then stationed in Nigeria's oil-rich Delta State, did accordingly when a group of weary fishermen stopped by his company barge one day.

The group asked Anthony if he could spare some food—and soon enough he was handing over slices of bread from the vessel's stock.

It was a random act of kindness

in just another encounter with the impoverished locals in Anthony's two years of working in the Niger Delta. He had actually forgotten all about it.

Until a black-masked man wielding a machine gun reminded him last month.

On Feb. 18, a militant group opposing oil activities in the Niger Delta abducted Anthony and eight other foreigners employed by the US oil service firm Willbros, holding them hostage in a jungle hideaway for almost two weeks.

The other captives were three

Americans, two Britons, two Thais and an Egyptian.

A subplot unfolded beneath the international crisis, showing how the Filipino knack for making friends and generating goodwill served Anthony well during this chilling episode in his life as an overseas worker.

One of the kidnappers, it turned out, was also one of the famished fishermen whom Anthony had helped.

The man recognized Anthony among the captives, and assured the Filipino that "nobody among the other kidnappers could touch

him," according to accounts gathered by the INQUIRER from the Department of Foreign Affairs and from Anthony's wife Helen.

He regarded Anthony as someone he should "protect" in case his comrades decided to make good their threat to torture or kill any of the hostages.

The Philippine Embassy in Abuja spoke with Anthony shortly after he was released by his abductors on March 1.

The embassy reported: "Anthony revealed that a small gesture of his in the past helped sustain him in the difficult and tense mo-

ments [of his] captivity.

"It was discovered that he had given food to some fisher folk who passed by their barge months before, and it just so happened that one of the beneficiaries of his act of charity [was] one of the kidnappers."

The embassy said one kidnapper "safeguarded Anthony the whole time and spared him from any injury."

It said the young man told Anthony that the other kidnappers might have to kill him first before they got to the Filipino.

RANDOM/A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated brief rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

'Court-martial for economic saboteurs'

Tax cheats, smugglers to be tried, says GMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HAVING BEEN FORCED TO END HER STATE OF emergency declaration because of public pressure, President Macapagal-Arroyo is now looking to "court-martial" big-time tax evaders and smugglers for the crime of economic sabotage.

Speaking at her regular forum on state-run television yesterday, the President said she had personally reviewed all pertinent laws on economic sabotage and found out that violators could be tried by military courts.

"I have been poring over old presidential decrees because they are still in effect, to look at the punishment for economic sabotage. I realized that they can be tried by court-martial or by military tribunal. That is one tool that can be used to further boost our antimuggling, antitax evasion campaign," the President told a panel of government officials that included Finance Secretary

Margarito Teves and Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales.

Ms Arroyo said she embarked on a review of the laws on economic sabotage to satisfy her curiosity about whether tax evasion and smuggling were covered.

A Palace source, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, said the President had asked for law books a few days ago, very much in keeping with her hands-on approach to policy formulation.

However, it would appear the President did not have the benefit of advice from her legal counsel as she seemed to be using the terms court-martial and military

tribunal quite loosely.

A court-martial hears infractions of military law and covers only soldiers and officers accused of breaches of military discipline in violation of the Articles of War.

A military tribunal is a kind of military court defined by three traits: It operates outside the scope of conventional criminal and civil matters, the judges are military officers, and the judges fulfill the role of jurors. Tribunals tend to operate with some degree of secrecy unlike civil trials.

The last time the country experienced military court trials was during the martial law regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos who empowered the Armed Forces to create military tribunals to try crimes against national security, espionage and public order.

Martyred opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino was tried, found guilty and sentenced to death by one such military tribunal.

The INQUIRER tried to contact the

President's chief presidential legal counsel and incoming solicitor general Eduardo Antonio Nachura, but he did not answer calls.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, an economic adviser to the President, said he would file a bill to support the President's campaign to give more teeth to the laws against tax evasion and smuggling.

"Given that the law is not clear on their [tax evasion and smuggling laws] coverage, I am filing a bill that will make tax evasion and smuggling part of economic sabotage," Salceda said.

Under current laws, only large-scale illegal recruitment and illegal logging are considered part of the crime of economic sabotage.

"The presidential pronouncement is grounded on a correct analysis of an ailment afflicting the nation. It is a step in the right direction in as much as tax evasion and smuggling are behaviors that endanger the economic security of the nation," Salceda said.



THRILLED TO BE HERE. This is what Kristie Anne Kenney says on arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport late Friday night to take up her post as the United States' new ambassador to the Philippines.

JESS YUSON

US church group scores Ka Bel detention, 1017

By Jerome Aning

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in the United States has joined calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to release Rep. Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran and to stop the harassment of the so-called "Batasan 5."

In a letter to Ms Arroyo, Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, stated clerk of the general assembly of the eight million-member Presbyterian Church (USA), urged the President to ensure that all citizens were accorded due process and their rights respected under the Philippine Constitution.

Kirkpatrick also expressed dis-

may at Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 which placed the country under a state of emergency.

"Instead of addressing the people's grievances, your government has dealt with the situation by the use of military force," he said.

He lamented that while the rationale for PP 1017 was the need to maintain law and order, it led to "needless escalation of violence, human rights violations, the curtailment of people's freedoms and trampling of democracy."

Kirkpatrick is also president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, which links more than 87 million Christians belonging to 218 mem-

ber-churches in over 100 countries

The Bayan Muna coalition is spearheading a campaign in the US and other countries to denounce alleged antidemocratic measures and policies of the Arroyo administration, which included the filing of rebellion charges against six militant party-list representatives.

The group reported that 302 American church people from various denominations and church-based institutions had signed an international appeal for the release of Beltran and for a stop to the persecution of the "Batasan 5."

The 302 American signatories

to the International Appeal were gathered during the Ecumenical Advocacy Days held on March 10-13 in Arlington, Virginia.

Signatories included elders, deacons, pastors, priests, nuns, seminarians, human rights coordinators and students belonging to the US Presbyterian Church, National Council of Churches in the USA, the US United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the US Episcopal Church, the Unitarian Universalists, the US Roman Catholic Church, the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ and other churches.

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BMW 318i M Sport

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BMW 318i M Sport

2004 Topaz Blue
13,000kms P1,800,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2004 Titanium Silver
12,000kms P2,100,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2004 Steel Grey
16,000kms P2,200,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2004 Titanium Silver
12,000kms P2,100,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2004 Titanium Silver
18,000kms P2,100,000

BMW 330i Sport

2005 Arctic
5,000kms P3,850,000

BMW 525i Exec.

2004 Silver Grey
6,000kms P4,250,000

BMW 525i Exec.

2004 Titanium Silver
4,000kms P4,400,000

BMW 525i Exec.

2004 Amethyst Grey
13,000kms P4,150,000

BMW 530i

2004 Titanium Silver
10,000kms P4,550,000

BMW X3 2.0d

2005 Silver Grey
7,000kms P2,900,000

BMW X3 2.5i Exec.

2004 Alpine White
10,000kms P3,500,000

BMW Z4 2.5i

2005 Titanium Silver
1,000kms P3,600,000

Prestige Cars BMW

BMW 120i Exec

2005 Titanium Silver
2,500kms P1,900,000

BMW 316i

1996 Cosmos Black
60,000kms P450,000

BMW 320i A

1996 Calypso Red
68,000kms P580,000

BMW 318i Exec.

2004 Titanium Silver
29,000kms P1,750,000

BMW 318i Exec.

2004 Orient Blue
29,000kms P1,750,000

BMW 318i M-Sport

2004 Topaz Blue
23,000kms P1,750,000

BMW 320i

2005 Arctic
10,316kms P2,110,500

BMW 320i

2005 Titanium Silver
15,057kms P2,110,500

BMW 323i A

1999 Cosmos Black
65,000kms P1,100,000

BMW 325i Exec

2006 Titanium Silver
4,000kms P3,040,000

BMW 325i Exec

2004 Sienna Red
30,000kms P1,980,000

BMW 325i M-Sport

2004 Imola Red
12,392kms P2,380,000

BMW 523i

1997 Dunkel Blue
78,000kms P1,150,000

BMW X5 3.0d Exec.

2002 Pearl Beige
36,000kms P3,258,000

BMW X5 3.0i Exec.

2004 Black Sapphire
13,153kms P4,550,000

BMW X5 3.0d Exec.

2005 Titanium Silver
6,500kms P4,800,000

Autozentrum BMW

BMW 118i Sport

2005 Sparkling Graphite
1,977kms P1,950,000

BMW 120i

2005 Quartz Blue
6,623kms P1,975,500

BMW 318i Exec.

2005 Sienna Red
14,756kms P1,879,000

BMW 320i

2005 Monaco Blue
7,388kms P2,250,000

BMW 320i Exec.

2005 Arctic
2,197kms P2,450,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2003 Titanium Silver
50,115kms P1,739,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2006 Steel Grey
5,235kms P2,311,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2006 Steel Grey
1,905kms P2,367,000

BMW 520i Limo

2004 Titanium Silver
12,112kms P3,519,000

BMW X3 2.0d

2006 Blue Waters
1,064kms P3,123,840

BMW X3 2.5 SAV

2004 Black Sapphire
15,009kms P2,930,000

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2004 Mystic Blue
13,102kms P2,930,000

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2004 Titanium Silver
3,412kms P3,858,000

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2005 Black Sapphire
81,000kms P1,500,000

BMW 325i Exec.

2005 Arctic
2,295kms P3,435,000

BMW 530d Exec.

2005 Black Sapphire
5,580kms P4,500,000

BMW X3 3.0i Exec.

2004 Black Sapphire
15,831kms P3,700,000

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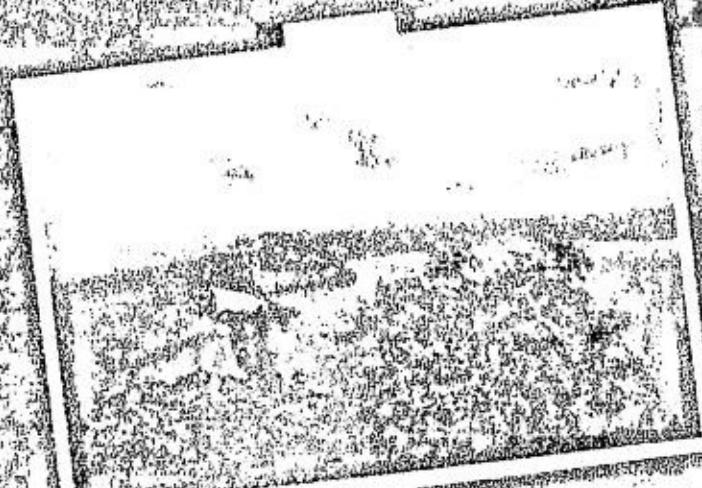
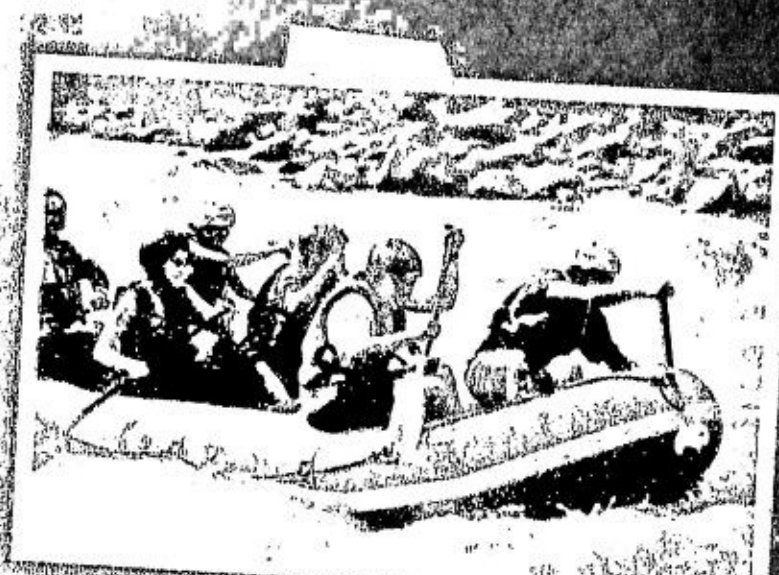
AIR MAIL

For the 21st consecutive year, Smart Communications, Inc. has shown its commitment to promote love of the Philippines and domestic tourism by creating an exclusive partnership with the Department of Tourism. Together, Smart and the Department of Tourism, headed by Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, have forged a partnership that promotes the Philippines as one of the premier tourist destinations of Southeast Asia.

Through the visually captivating campaign "Makipaya, Bihag, Tayo," featuring Regine Velasquez, Smart Communications, Inc. and the Department of Tourism have managed to open our eyes to the attractions this beautiful country has to offer. With 7,107 islands, there is an abundance of sight and activities that most people don't even know exist!

For the sport entitled "Action," one can't help but get excited for the showcased activities. Whether you get your kicks by land, sea or air, the Philippines has something for everybody. If you feel more at home on soil, try 4X4 racing or extreme biking. If watersports float your boat, a wide array of possibilities awaits. Island hopping across pristine waters on kayaks, diving with whale sharks, kiteboarding in a breezy paradise and whitewater rafting through gushing rapids are just a few of the activities you can choose from. Do you get a thrill from high altitudes? Gaze across the sprawling landscape on a hot air balloon or get your adrenaline pumping with mountain climbing. The opportunities are endless.

The Philippines comes alive with "Makipaya, Bihag, Tayo" campaign by showing the different facets of the country depending on one's pursuit. Vacationers can now expand their horizons beyond Boracay or Tagaytay and Greenhill or Divisoria and experience all that the country has to offer.



Secretary of Tourism Joseph H. Durano with fellow triathletes



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1 of 30
Bulldozers

KOMATSU B100A Bulldozer, w/ Ripper Assy



MITSUBISHI CAT M6450-B Excavator

1 of 30
Wheel
Loaders

TCM 870-2 Wheel Loader

1 of 15
Motor
Graders

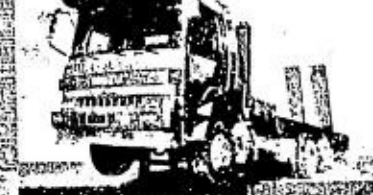
CAT 120G Motor Grader



KOMATSU LW200H-2 Hydraulic Crane

1 of 70
Dropside
Cargos

ISUZU FORWARD FVR Alum. Dropside Cargo



ISUZU 1000 Ball Load



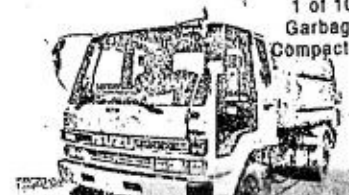
1 of 70 Dropside Cargos



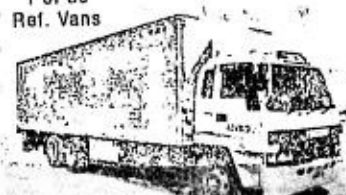
1 of 20 Bus



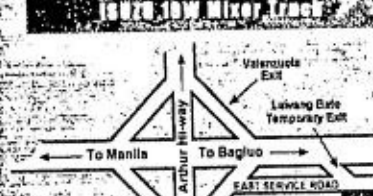
1 of 12 Transit Mixers



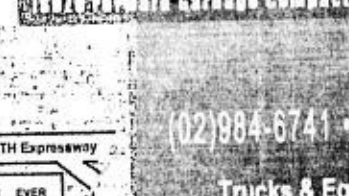
1 of 10 Garbage Compactors



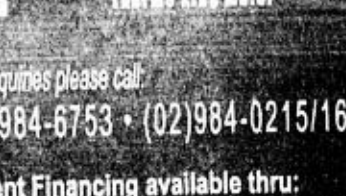
1 of 30 Ref. Vans



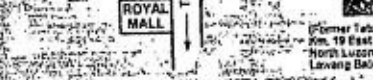
ISUZU 1000 Mixer Truck



ISUZU 1000 Garbage Compactor



ISUZU 1000 Ref. Van



Map showing the location of the auction site near the North Expressway and various exits.

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 ✓ Basic process flow
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 ✓ Basic requirements
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Workshop / Seminar Venues & Dates:

Metro Manila & Luzon - See you in MAKATI
 Date: March 31 (Friday) & April 1 (Saturday)
 Time: 9 AM to 6 PM
 Venue: Dasmariñas Rm., Makati Sports Club
 LP Leviste St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City

Visayas & Mindanao - See you in CEBU
 Date: April 7 (Friday) & April 8 (Saturday)
 Time: 9 AM to 6 PM
 Venue: Caribbean Rm., Cebu Waterfront Hotel
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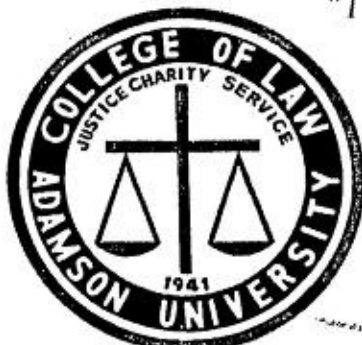
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THE DAILY
GOSPEL

Sunday, March 19, 2006

3rd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 (or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17)

Ten Commandments

God spoke all these words. He said, "I am Yahweh your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

Do not have other gods before me.

Do not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven, or on the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them.

For I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God; for the sin of the fathers, when they rebel against me, I punish the sons, the grandsons and the great-grandsons; but I show steadfast love until the thousandth generation for those who love me and keep my commandments.

Do not take the name of Yahweh your God in vain for Yahweh will not leave unpunished anyone who takes his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you will labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for Yahweh your God. Do not work that day, neither you, nor your son, nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals, nor the stranger who is staying with you. For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why Yahweh has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor your father and your mother that you may have a long life in the land that Yahweh has given you.

Do not kill.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not give false witness against your neighbor.

Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his."

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Christ crucified

The Jews ask for miracles and the Greeks for a higher knowledge, while we proclaim a crucified Messiah. For the Jews, what a great scandal! And for the Greeks, what nonsense! But he is Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God for those called by God among both Jews and Greeks.

In reality, the "foolishness" of God is wiser than humans, and the "weakness" of God is stronger than humans.

Gospel: John 2:13-25

I will raise up this temple in three days

As the Passover of the Jews was at hand, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple court he found merchants selling oxen, sheep and doves, and money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple court, together with the oxen and sheep. He knocked over the tables of the money-changers, scattering the coins, and ordered the people selling doves, "Take all this away and stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture: Zeal for your House devours me as a fire.

The Jews then questioned Jesus, "Where are the miraculous signs which give you the right to do this?" And Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then replied, "The building of this temple has already taken 46 years, and you will raise it up in three days?"

Actually, Jesus was referring to the temple of his body. Only when he had risen from the dead did his disciples remember these words; then they believed both the Scripture and the words Jesus had spoken.

Jesus stayed in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival and many believed in his Name when they saw the miraculous signs he performed. But Jesus did not trust himself to them, because he knew all of them. He had no need of evidence about anyone for he himself knew what there was in each one.

Commentary

We return to our roots as a people, receiving the law together. This is our heritage and is meant to be the foundation of our ethics, morality and decisions. The first three are about God, the fourth is the bridge of our families and the last six have to do with society, our neighbors. The law is meant to bind us all together as one in covenant with God. And as Christians we are further given the wisdom of the Cross that holds us together and binds us at our hearts at the place where our God and the rest of the world meets. Jesus is adamant that true worship of God is not ritualistic or liturgical but found in zeal for the honor of God in our lives. And Jesus knows our hearts as we come together to pray. What does he see in our hearts today?

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Scout Rangers' general to face court-martial

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE FORMER CHIEF OF THE elite First Scout Rangers Regiment (FSRR) will be tried before a military court along with a number of his officers and men for planning to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon yesterday announced that he had recommended court-martial proceedings for Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim et al. in a report he submitted to Gen. Generoso Senga, the Armed Forces chief of staff.

He said he had recommended that Lim be charged with mutiny and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline under Articles of War 67 and 97.

Esperon made the announce-

ment in a news conference with top Army officials and field commanders who were summoned to a command conference in Fort Bonifacio yesterday. (See story on Page A1.)

He said a number of others from the 59 officers and 37 enlisted personnel who were investigated in connection with the plan would also be charged.

But even with elite officers and men detained or in custody, Esperon said the threat of an uprising still existed.

"We are not letting our guard down. We have information about probable activities as contained in their document, like gathering more people on March 31 and May 1. [But] their capabilities are somehow downgraded because we have their operations officers. But we will

not be complacent about it," he said.

Confidence

So confident was Esperon that there would be no more unauthorized troop movements that he gathered all brigade and division commanders to the command conference.

"We have all of them here now. We are so confident to bring them here all together for a meeting of minds, which means we are confident about what's happening in the field. We are confident that our men are operating as they should in the frontline," he declared.

Before the press conference, Esperon handed out plaques of commendation to five senior Army officers and two Philippine National Police officers for "the

successful conduct of defense and security operations that preempted ... the overthrow of the duly constituted government on Feb. 23 and 24."

The FSRR was left out in the commendation. Col. Reynaldo Mapagu, who took over command after Lim was relieved on Feb. 24, attended the command conference.

Jan. 17

Esperon said the investigation began on Jan. 17, when 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan and three other Magdalo rebel officers escaped from a high-security detention compound in Fort Bonifacio.

He said 40 officers and 10 enlisted personnel were initially investigated. After the events of Feb. 23 and 24, an additional 19

officers and 27 soldiers were investigated.

"Out of this, we are recommending some of them for further investigation and trial for infractions of Articles of War 67 for inciting to mutiny, Article of War 68 for failure to report mutiny, and Article of War 97 for conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline," he said.

"Some of them were questioned so that we could strengthen what could probably be charges against some officers," he added.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, said Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin and other active officers visited him in July 2005 to complain about the absence of an inquiry into the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal that implicated some ranking

officials, including Esperon.

Asked if any of the 59 officers and 37 enlisted personnel investigated had raised the question of the unresolved controversy, Esperon said: "That's not the point of our investigation. I'm not aware of anybody who brought that up."

No probe yet

So far, the elite Marine Corps has not investigated Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, the relieved commandant, Querubin and other officers and men for the planned withdrawal of support from the President on Feb. 24.

The most combat-ready military unit is instead conducting a "fact-finding" investigation into the Feb. 26 standoff involving the Marines at Fort Bonifacio.

Fil-Am ...

From page A1

American Associations (NaFAA).

Lewis was in Honolulu, Hawaii, when she found out about the fundraising activity through Joey's grandfather, Romy Cachola.

Mom surprised

In an overseas phone interview on Friday, the INQUIRER spoke with Joey and his family.

"I only found out on Thursday," said Lyla Cachola-Prather, Joey's mother. "I even asked him, 'Why didn't you tell me?' He said he wanted it to be a surprise."

Pride was evident in Prather's voice as she recounted how her little boy had single-handedly inspired his classmates to donate part of their allowance to the landslide survivors. Her son had previously given part of his allowance to the local church and to the Salvation Army, but it wasn't a big deal, unlike this time.

"He's always concerned about what's happening in the world," Prather, 37, a doctor, said. "He is a good boy. He always wants to help people."

They're Filipinos

Joey said he recalled seeing on TV "some buildings lying down and survivors kind of covered in mud."

It was then that he decided to initiate a fundraiser, telling no one, not even his mother.

"I felt bad for them... It's not [as bad as hurricane] Katrina, but the victims are Filipinos," he told the INQUIRER.

Joey, who will turn 12 in April, shared the fundraising idea with his school's student council. Last week,



THE LITTLE BOY WHO CARED: Joseph Cachola Prather (right) poses with his family in his home in Mililani, Honolulu. From left, mother Lyla, sister Shane and father Aiden.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

it was approved by the school principal and became a collective effort of Joey's homeroom class.

Two of his classmates were assigned to solicit money from the sixth, seventh and eighth grade levels. Joey himself made the rounds before and after class.

Proud grandpa

"I was asking everyone if they'd donated money, that sort of thing... I went and made the rounds even during recess and lunch break," Joey said.

Prather said the money from Joey's homeroom class would be turned over to the Filipino Community Center in Hawaii.

Equally proud of Joey's selfless act are his father and 68-year-old grandfather.

Cachola, who hails from Vigan, Ilocos Sur, told the INQUIRER: "I was surprised that Joey [at his young age] could think of helping others and how to do it. He always goes out of his way to help others."

Helping others seems to be a family trait. Aside from represent-

ing a Honolulu district for 16 years in the House of Representatives, Cachola also went on several medical missions to the Philippines with his wife Erlinda, also a doctor.

Get-well-soon cards

Cachola said his grandson asked him to put donation boxes in doctors' offices for the landslide victims. He said that Lewis also talked to his grandson.

"She was surprised that a boy [of his age] could think of such a thing," he said.

After the fundraiser, Joey and his classmates started making get-well-soon cards for the Southern Leyte survivors.

"He has already asked me where they could send the cards," Cachola said.

Asked if he had any plans to visit the country anytime soon, Joey replied that he was not sure. "I haven't thought of it yet," he said.

For his part, Cachola said he would love to bring his grandson and his daughter Lyla to the Philippines.

Senga sets 5-point guidance

From page A1

Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, but later backed off.

Senga has strongly denied this. In his 5-point guidance, as quoted by Esperon, Senga spelled out the role of the military.

The 5 points

First, he stressed the "strict adherence to the supremacy of civilian authority over the military."

Then he declared that the AFP's constitutional mandate as protector of the people and the state was "not a license to wrest leadership of the government from public officials on the basis of perceived intervention of governance."

"Third, as professional soldiers, we do not enjoy an unrestrained license to engage in partisan politics or publicly speak our minds against the government without having to take the serious accountability for our unauthorized action," Senga said.

Fourth, he cited a Supreme Court decision in December 1988 in the case of Kapunan et al. versus the AFP chief of staff.

He said the high court had set "distinctive parameters" to the civil rights enjoyed by soldiers: "It ruled that certain civil liberties of persons in the military service, including the freedom of speech, may be circumscribed by rules of military discipline. For one, this is contained in the decision in the case of Kapunan et al. that to a certain degree individual rights of military personnel may be curtailed in order to maintain discipline in our ranks."

Finally, he declared that the military was "not to be regarded as a potent political force to be



SENGA: No to power play and the use of the military for vested interests

used by politicians in the furtherance of their vested interests."

Threat still exist

According to Esperon, the military has to continue to keep watch because the threat of an uprising still exists.

But he expressed confidence that ordinary soldiers knew their duty.

"When your men in the field continue operating even [in] the worst kind of weather and terrain, then they are assured they are sticking to their mandate, to their true job of being military men," Esperon said.

"Let's not even ask them who they are working for. They know their oath to uphold and defend the Constitution, and they abide by the chain of command," he added.

Last week, the military came under fire from lawmakers as a result of a statement by Col. Trisitan Kison, one of its spokesper-

sons and the chief of the AFP public information office.

Kison had said that the military played a crucial role in keeping the President in power, and that "if we break, the nation will collapse."

After the volley of protests from lawmakers, Kison stopped giving interviews and Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado was reappointed military spokesperson.

Fighting tooth and nail

Biazon said Ms Arroyo was "fighting tooth and nail" to remain in power to avoid the fate of ousted President Joseph Estrada, who is now facing plunder charges.

"Do you know why Gloria is fighting tooth and nail? When she steps down, she loses her immunity," the senator said.

"There will be a day of reckoning. That is what she is afraid of. Like what she did to [Estrada]: What will be filed against her? You can think of many things," he said.

Biazon said the possible charges against Ms Arroyo included cheating in the 2004 election and probably plunder for the P728-million fertilizer fund scam, the NorthRail project and the illegal use of at least P100 million in recovered Marcos wealth.

To those claiming that Ms Arroyo would still have won in 2004 anyway, Biazon said: "The issue is not whether she won or she lost."

"The issue is: Did she cheat? Winning or losing an election is not a crime, but cheating is."

Correction

THE ARTICLE "PAL TO PAY more, train more to stem pilot exodus," which appeared in yesterday's issue on Page B1, misstated that the salaries of Philippine Airlines pilots ranged from \$4,000 to \$7,000 a year. PAL pilots at present actually receive \$4,000 to \$7,000 a month. Also, foreign airlines offer compensation packages that start at \$10,000 a month, not a year as written.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Bondi or Boracay? Tourism ads wow Aussies

From page A1

sage: "Time to discover a new paradise ... the Philippine islands."

Second printing

It's an invitation to find out why the Philippines can claim to be Asia's beach capital, with its 7,100 islands and a coastline twice the length of that of the United States, according to the Department of Tourism's website, www.wowphilippines.com.ph.

But would Sydneysiders be interested if they have a seemingly endless stretch of 40 beaches right in their own backyard?

If it's any indication, barely halfway through the three-month campaign, the postcards have all but disappeared from the display stands, necessitating a second printing. This is according to Filipino-Australian Sylvia Dipasupil-Altomonte, whose Imago advertising and graphic design agency was commissioned by Jones for the campaign.

"We have fantastic beaches and islands here, so you wonder why Australians still want to go overseas for tropical holidays," Sylvia, better known as Dipsy, said when she talked about the campaign last January.

"It's partly because it still comes out cheaper, with a cultural experience to boot," she said.

Mostly, it's because Australians just can't have



DREAM SCENARIO for Tourism Attache Consuelo Garcia-Jones is to zero in on the stuff that never fails to grab the Aussies' attention.

enough sun, sea, sand and surf. (They quickly recovered from the shock over the Cronulla beach race riots last December, and were not about to cede their place in the sun to tourists who packed Bondi, Manly and other popular beaches.)

'Can't believe this!'

"We've received phone calls asking for more information," Jones said in an e-mail interview. "We're targeting the family market, couples, and generally people who just want to relax and be pampered in a paradise setting."

Prior to the campaign launch



POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE needed second printing, according to ad executive Sylvia Dipasupil-Altomonte

on Feb. 1, Dipsy conducted an informal survey among her clients and friends.

She sent out questionnaires and posted mock-ups of the billboards in her office.

Respondents ranged from company CEOs to messengers, even the cleaner, representing a wide cross-section of ages and backgrounds.

The most common reaction was: "I can't believe no one's told me about this place before!"

And Dipsy adopted it as the message on the postcard.

The most popular image is that of a fellow floating in a natural pool in Coron, Palawan, arms outstretched, face up, as

though soaking in the sunshine.

The swimmer is in shorts, a tee and mojos, suggesting that he couldn't resist the lure of the clear emerald-and-turquoise waters and just had to jump in.

Scoring zero

As shown by the survey, Australians' favorite Asian destinations are Thailand and Indonesia, followed by Singapore and Hong Kong. Vietnam and Brunei were also mentioned.

The Philippines scored zero. The respondents said they just didn't know much about the country and what's there to see, unlike Indonesia and Thailand.

Jones attributed this to the "heaps of dollars" other Asian countries spend on promotions and ads.

Coup attempts and kidnappings here make news in Australia, but Australians are aware that these are not peculiar to the Philippines.

"The Bali bombings may have made them more aware of the realities of violence," Dipsy surmised. In which case, this would be an opportune time to present alternatives.

In the survey, one relatively wealthy and well-traveled male in his 50s said he didn't know anyone in his circle who had been to the Philippines, so it never occurred to him and his wife to consider visiting the country.

The man and his wife are "empty nesters" who travel with

other couples and take turns suggesting destinations.

"And he's been to Brunei and Sabah on golfing holidays!" Dipsy said.

Credibility

In her latest e-mail, Dipsy said: "I'd like to think that our campaign is helping to give the Philippines more credibility as a destination to consider."

She said the March 12 issue of the Sunday Herald had the Banaue rice terraces on the cover of the travel supplement, to coincide with an ongoing travel show.

Quite a coup, she remarked, noting that the other major publications featured the usual favorites like Paris, Florence and Phuket.

The tourism campaign—which is backed by the office of Consul General Tess Lazaro—will peak in next month's Royal Easter Show, during which promo publications will be disseminated.

The two-week fair draws more than 600 exhibitors and a million visitors, making it Australia's largest annual event.

Filipinos in Sydney are doing their bit, too. A geologist working in an engineering company has been drumming up interest among his officemates, some of whom just might come over during the holidays.

"I myself would love to go," said Dipsy, who was last here about eight years ago.

Time to rediscover paradise.

Military says it, too, ready to arrest Gringo

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ALTHOUGH IT'S A POLICE MATTER, ARMY chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon yesterday said his troops would help the Philippine National Police arrest ex-Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who was recently charged with coup d'etat for his alleged involvement in the Oakwood mutiny nearly three years ago.

"If we see him we will arrest him by virtue of a citizen's arrest," Esperon told reporters at Fort Bonifacio.

He said that while Honasan's arrest was primarily the responsibility of law enforcement agencies, namely, the PNP and the National Bureau of Investigation, the military could conduct a "citizen's arrest" in this case.

"We have what we call citizen's arrest and as upright citizens of the Republic, we in the Philippine Army are obliged or we have the mandate to arrest the fugitive personality when they are in sight," Esperon said.

The government last week placed a P5-million bounty on Honasan, whom the military has linked to an alleged plot between military and communist rebels to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Asked if they thought Honasan was still in Metro Manila, Esperon said it was "probable."

But he quickly added: "We are very careful about this. Let's not talk about intelligence information."

On Thursday, during the budget hearing in the House of Representatives, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said there was no order to the military to arrest Honasan, although they would arrest him if he was sighted.

Honasan was sighted in Negros Occidental and Iloilo last week.

Citing intelligence reports, Chief Supt. Doroteo Reyes II, police regional director, said

Honasan was seen in Bacolod City and in other towns in Negros Occidental last week.

Reyes said they did not arrest Honasan at the time because there was no warrant out for his arrest.

"But right now, it's a different ballgame. He will be arrested on sight," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

Honasan disappeared from public view shortly before the President declared a state of national emergency on Feb. 24.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said he had received reports that Honasan was seen in Dumangas town in Iloilo.

From Dumangas, Honasan was reportedly also seen in Barotac Nuevo town in Iloilo and in Molo District in Iloilo City.

But Gonzalez said the reports on the sightings of Honasan were "raw and unconfirmed."

"Yesterday (Friday), he was reportedly in Zamboanga. We all receive reports that he has a hideout in San Mateo in Rizal," said Gonzalez. With a report from Nestor R Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

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Beltran plight said holding up wage measure

THE DETENTION OF ANAKPAWIS PARTY-list Rep. Crispin Beltran on rebellion charges has set back passage of a bill increasing the daily minimum wage by P125 and other labor-related measures pending in the House of Representatives, the militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno said yesterday.

KMU national chair Elmer Labog told a news conference that even Rep. Roseller Barinaga, chair of the House committee on labor and employment who had called for Beltran's immediate release, had admitted his committee was having a hard time deliberating labor-related bills in the absence of the labor leader.

The committee was to take up amendments to House Bill 345 or the P125-wage-hike bill next week and it needed input from Beltran, who is detained in Camp Crame, Labog said. The daily minimum wage currently stands at P325 for Metro Manila and ranges from P151 to P277 in the various other regions.

Chair emeritus

Beltran, popularly known as "Ka Bel," is chair emeritus of the KMU and his contribution to the advancement of workers' interests is highly respected and recognized by his colleagues in Congress as well as all labor centers and workers nationwide, according to Labog.

"With his enduring illegal detention, the Arroyo government consciously delays government projects and bills for workers and the people," he said, warning of a possible escalation of labor protests.

"Labor groups are united to press the P125 wage hike bill and seek justice for Ka Bel and all workers," he said. "We will not falter in defending our hard-earned economic and democratic rights in all ways possible."

Meanwhile, Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador accused the Department of Justice and the Philippine National Police of producing "new fabricated sworn affidavits using pawns with concocted lies and designations like 'star witness' Jaime Fuentes."

Virador said in a statement he had received several affidavits in support of the PNP's rebellion charge against him and the other militant legislators now under protective custody of the House.

9 affidavits against Virador

He said nine affidavits from an Army captain and other witnesses, including alleged former members of the New People's Army, told of how he had allegedly aided the armed group with cash, firearms and food.

One of the affidavits alleged that Virador distributed 25 sacks of rice, five boxes of sardines, five boxes of instant noodles and assorted medicines and wound dressings to the New People's Army in Mindanao in 2003.

"These affidavits also haplessly allege that I and other leaders of the legitimate people's organizations in Mindanao are linked to the NPA," said the party-list representative with roots in Davao City.

Virador said lawyers were studying the affidavits and how these could be countered in the course of the preliminary investigation against him and the other accused party-list congressmen - Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano and Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza. Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

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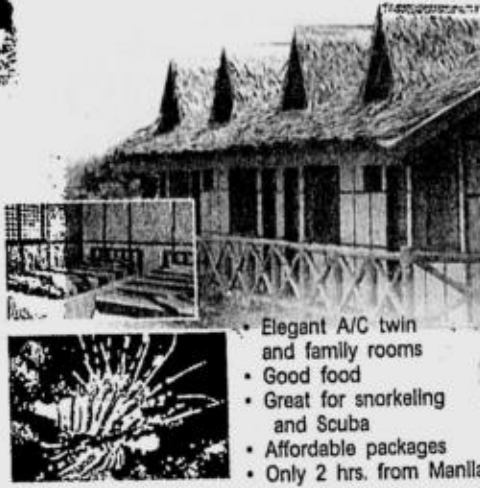
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Pinoys warned about working in Dubai on 'visit visas'

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By Jerome Aning

DUBAI, THE MOST PROGRESSIVE CITY IN the Middle East, has been hosting an increasing number of Filipino "tourist workers," many of whom often find themselves without jobs, or working under miserable conditions and reduced to begging, according to a top Filipino job recruiter.

The recruiter, who visited Dubai in the United Arab Emirates last week to check on the workers that his own agency had deployed to the emirate, said Filipinos who entered Dubai using "visit visas" widely advertised by travel agencies in Manila were having a difficult time finding good jobs.

To survive, many accept work for low salaries and under unfair labor conditions, said the recruiter who asked not to be named. His findings were confirmed by Emmanuel Geslani, a consultant to several Manila-based recruitment agencies.

Geslani said the recruiter had written about the problem months ago to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

but nothing came of it.

Considered undocumented because they did not go through the hiring process of the POEA, these workers-disguised-as-tourists are allowed to stay in Dubai for only 57 days.

Documented workers like secretaries receive 3,000 UAE dirhams (about P42,000) with free accommodations while workers with only "visit visas" are given only about 1,500 dirhams, or P21,000 pesos, without accommodations.

Those unable to find jobs within the 57-day period have to leave Dubai and fly to the tourist island of Kis in Iran to renew their visit visas or wait for a worker visa to be issued by their employer, the recruiter said.

He said many of the OFWs waiting it out in Kis had spent almost all their cash. Some had even resorted to begging from new Filipino arrivals for bed and board.

The plight of stranded OFWs in Kis was investigated by the Department of Foreign Affairs a few years ago. But the DFA has yet to make public the report of the team it sent to Iran and UAE to check on the matter.

Deployment to the UAE has been rising dramatically for the past seven years, from a low of 35,485 in 1998 to 49,164 in 2003, 68,386 in 2004 and 81,707 in 2005, because of a boom in the construction of hotels, office buildings and residences.

About 100 new hotels are expected to be constructed in Dubai by 2010, according to the source. But though this would be a boon to OFW recruitment, he said the POEA should start cracking down on those travel agencies selling "visit visas" at prices ranging from P40,000 to P100,000.

"Thousands of Filipinos have been lured by these travel agencies with their ads and many more are convinced by their friends now working there to fly to Dubai and take their chances in finding jobs," the recruiter said.

Geslani said there were two to three local travel agencies responsible for sending out these "tourist workers."

He earlier accused Bureau of Immigration agents based in the country's airports of colluding with these travel agencies in allowing the tourist workers to leave.

Airlines insist on 6-mo lead time for Naia 3

By Nikko Dizon

THE INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES OPERATING out of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 1 maintain they would still need six months of lead time before they could transfer to the new Naia Terminal 3.

The Airline Operators Council (AOC), the organization made up of the 29 international airlines operating out of Naia 1, said the legal cases Naia 3 is embroiled in should first be settled before they would make any new investments in the airport facility.

"It's like renting a house. Would you sign a

contract with the owner when you know there's a pending case involving the house? The difficulty is, you might get involved. You might be held in contempt," airline executive Leoncio Nakpil, who chairs the AOC, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Thursday.

Nakpil said the airline companies' legal departments have kept themselves updated on the Naia 3 controversy.

"They always ask us (the airlines' Manila offices) here if the legal issues have been resolved, what's the latest on the ownership issue. We can't sign any lease contract agreement until these issues are settled because we might get into trouble," Nakpil said.

He added the airlines were treating the reported opening soon of Naia 3 as "hearsay."

"We have yet to receive a formal notice from the Maa (Manila International Airport Authority)," he said.

Miaa general manager Alfonso Cusi has said Cebu Pacific Airways had agreed "in principle" to begin using Naia 3 for some of its international flights in a "soft opening."

The Supreme Court last Wednesday ruled with finality that the government must pay P3 billion to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Platco), the consortium that built Naia 3.



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New lawyers demand GIs in rape be jailed

By Volt Contreras

THE NEW SET OF LAWYERS LOOKING AFTER the private interests of the Filipino woman who has accused four American Marines of raping her have revived their client's demand that the defendants be locked up in jail instead of being held in the US Embassy compound in Manila for the duration of their trial.

In a motion filed last Friday, private prosecutors Evalyn Ursua, Anna Liza Gonzales and ex-Bagui Rep. Honorato Aquino asked the Olongapo City Court to defer the defendants' scheduled arraignment for March 24 and declare as unconstitutional provisions in the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement which grant the US custody over American troops facing judicial proceedings here.

The motion asked the court to issue new arrest warrants for Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Dominic Duplantis and Keith Silkwood.

Ursua said at a news conference yesterday that she and the other lawyers were aware that their motion would further delay the trial but "we don't want to sacrifice the rules" for the sake of speed.

"Two things must first happen before an arraignment - the arrest and detention of the accused," she said. "If the court proceeds (on March 24) then it will be an irregular proceeding that can be nullified."

"What if we win a conviction but it's after the VFA's one-year period?" asked Aquino, who is also a former law school dean of the University of the Cordilleras (formerly known as Baguio Colleges Foundation). He was referring to the one-year deadline provided for in the agreement within which a trial of accused US soldiers must be completed.

"Can we be sure that the judgment will still be enforced?" said Aquino.

The 22-page motion argued that the VFA provisions on custody had "effectively amended" the country's Rules of Criminal Procedures,

which only the Supreme Court can modify under the 1987 Constitution.

Under the rules of court, persons accused of crimes punishable by death or life imprisonment do not have the right

to bail. This rule was thus "effectively nullified" by the US government's refusal to turn over the accused to Philippine authorities, the pleading said.

"The right of the private com-

plaintant, and that of every Filipino who is or may in the future be accused of a crime, to due process and equal protection of the law has been and is being violated," the document added.

The lawyers, who entered their appearance at the sala of Olongapo City Judge Renato Dilag early this month, asked the court to hold a hearing on their motion on March 22.

It's business as usual for VFA body, says exec

By Volt Contreras

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF the Presidential Commission on the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, supposedly on the verge of abolition early this year, says it is still business as usual for his agency.

Zosimo Paredes, who holds the rank of undersecretary, said in a recent interview that the commission continued to operate on a P2-million budget under the Office of the President and he continued to submit reports to the President through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and was acknowledged by them.

"We never stopped functioning," Paredes said at the Department of Foreign Affairs, where the commission holds office. The secretary of foreign affairs is co-chair of the commission.

Paredes said he planned to attend the March 24 arraignment in Olongapo City of the four US Marines accused of raping a Filipino woman last November. Paredes and his staff have twice visited the accused in their quar-

ters at the US Embassy in Manila.

He said he also represented the commission in a recent House hearing on the peace process in Mindanao, and visited community projects conducted by US troops taking part in the Balikatan exercises.

Paredes drew the ire of administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago during a House inquiry last January into the botched efforts of the Philippine government to gain custody of the accused American servicemen.

On Jan. 25, Santiago said President Arroyo had decided to abolish Paredes's commission as it duplicated the functions of the bicameral Legislative Oversight Committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement, which is cochaired by the senator.

Paredes warned that the country could lose up to \$8 million yearly in military and humanitarian assistance from Washington if the agreement were abrogated, a move which the congressional committee recommended in view of the accord's vague custody provisions.

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Ex-solon, now a con, takes guards to prison

By Jocelyn R. Uy

DEATH CONVICT former Rep. Jose Villarosa apparently has a lot of adjusting to do.

Villarosa, a newcomer to the maximum compound at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City, is being watched over by four bodyguards in the daytime while six prisoners guard him at night, according to an NBP insider.

"Maybe he is still afraid or he is adjusting to his new surroundings," said the INQUIRER source, who requested anonymity for security reasons.

Villarosa and his co-accused, farmers known as the "Mamburao Six," were taken to the national penitentiary on March 1, after Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court found them guilty of killing Michael and Paul Quintos, sons of the former lawmaker's political rival, Ricardo Quintos.

According to the

source, Villarosa's four bodyguards report to the NBP Monday to Sunday as if they were reporting for an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. job.

Two of Villarosa's daytime bodyguards are active members of the Philippine National Police in Occidental Mindoro, while the others are soldiers who are AWOL (absent without official leave), he said.

The bodyguards would deposit their firearms at the main office's armory before entering Gate 1 of the maximum compound. "But the sound of guns being cocked when the bodyguards claim them from the armory in the afternoon agitate some employees," he said.

Villarosa also reportedly does not mingle with the other death row convicts. He is supposedly registered as a patient in the NBP's hospital ward.

Death row convicts cannot freely roam the compound. "They have to ask

permission from their keepers," the source said.

Convicted child rapist former Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos has lent Villarosa a portion of his cottage, where the newcomer is staying under the watchful eyes of his bodyguards, the source said.

At night, six prisoners, most of them ex-soldiers, take turns looking after the former lawmaker, the source added.

The INQUIRER tried to reach NBP officials for comment but they were not available.

JAIL THEM. A group of protesters chants "Justice for our women, justice for our country" at a news conference as they call for the detention in jail of four American soldiers accused of raping a Filipino woman in Subic last November.

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Random act of kindness saved Pinoy in Nigeria

From page A1

Anthony thus felt "restless on the days when his friend was not around," the embassy said.

How it happened

The kidnapers were mainly youths in their 20s belonging to the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND).

Per the embassy report, Anthony and his coworkers were kidnapped "in retaliation" for the Nigerian military's bombardment of tribal communities suspected of illegal bunkering operations.

At the time of the kidnapping, the Willbros crew was conducting pipe-laying operations around a Shell oil terminal in Warri City.

The heavily armed MEND militants forced their way into the Willbros barge at about 8 a.m. of

Feb. 18. Anthony, who had worked the night shift, was awakened by gunshots.

He and his coworkers were ordered to board a speedboat. About an hour later they found themselves in a forested area near a swamp, where they were held in a "camp" that was powered by an electric generator and had a television set.

Trauma

Anthony, a father of two, returned to Manila on March 4, or three days after he and five of the other hostages were freed.

The INQUIRER reached the family home in Olongapo City but Helen Santos took the call, saying her husband was still too "traumatized" to talk about his ordeal.

She said he had been seeing a psychiatrist since his homecom-

ing.

Nevertheless, Helen agreed to share what Anthony had so far told her.

Contrary to earlier reports that the hostages were not physically harmed, Anthony was actually "hit hard on the right ear" during the abduction.

He is also being treated for that injury, which left him hard of hearing during his days in captivity.

Anthony had forgotten about giving food to a group of fishermen until one of the kidnapers barked at him: "I recognize you!"

Helen confirmed the embassy report about the "friendly" militant offering to be killed first before the others could lay a hand on her husband.

The kidnapper—who appeared to be the group leader—made sure that his brothers in arms knew the little history he shared with the Filipino hostage.

Torment

This somehow helped Anthony cope with the psychological torment that he and the others were forced to endure.

For example, the kidnapers often cleaned their guns or fired a few test rounds in front of the hostages, playfully pointing the firearms in the latter's direction.

The kidnapers also spoke loudly in broken English about the plan to blindfold the hostages, hang them from a tree, and shoot them.

"But after a few minutes, they would say they would not really do it," Helen said.

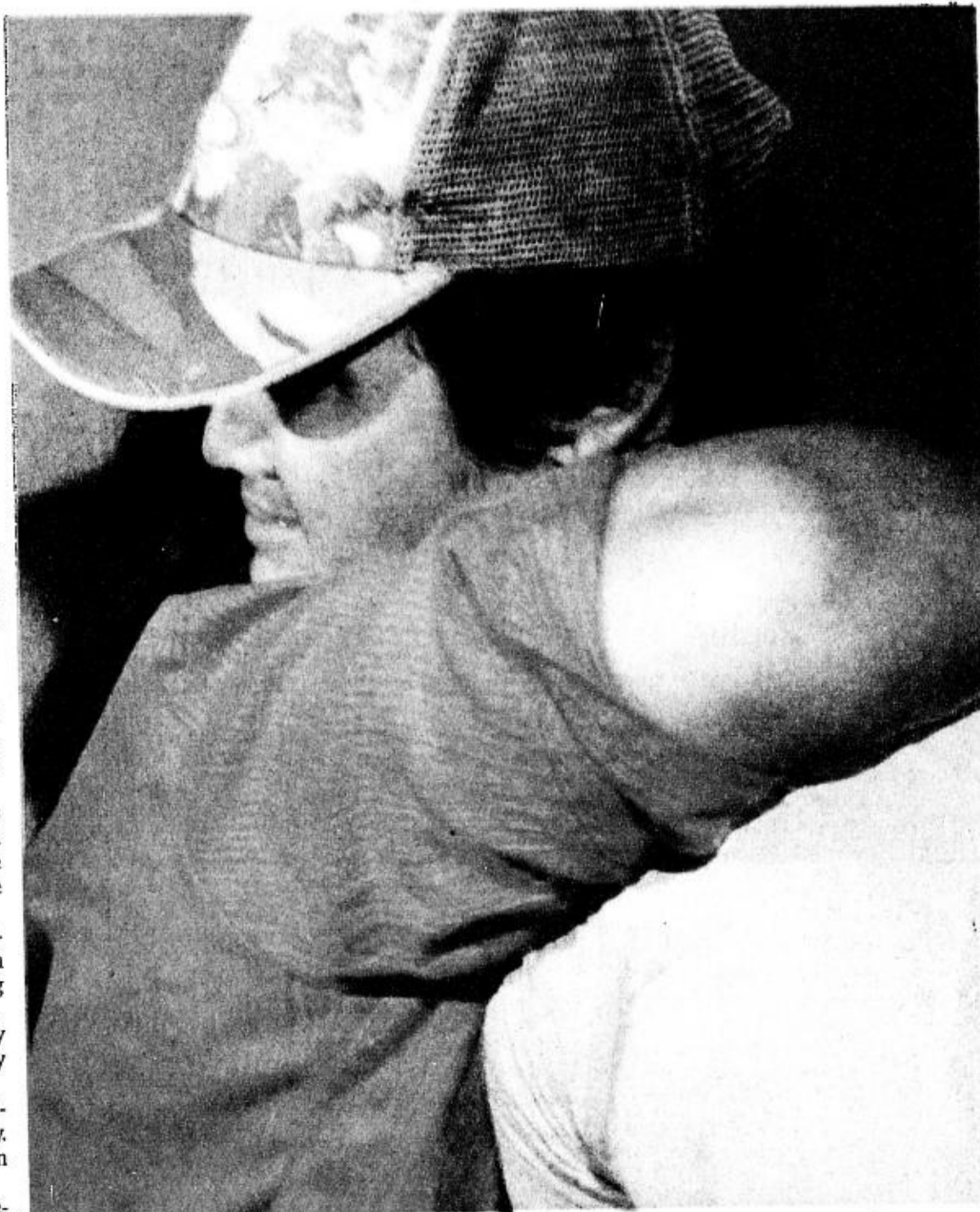
The hostages were fed—usually eggs or noodles—twice a day. They were given new clothes on their third day in the camp.

On the day Anthony was released, his "friend" was not in the camp. Thus, no goodbyes were said.

Anthony got his name but would not disclose it for security reasons, Helen said.

Well-liked

"Filipinos, I heard, are actually well-liked by the local people in those parts," Helen said. "Perhaps my husband, who can pass for a Mexican, was only dragged into this because he was mistaken for a mem-



HOME FROM NIGERIA Anthony Santos has a most heartwarming story to tell that transcends race, creed and the borders of the world. He was met by his wife Helen at the Naia when he arrived on March 4.

ber of another foreign nationality."

She said her own father, younger brother and a brother-in-law were still working with Anthony's firm in Nigeria.

Anthony himself told airport reporters that he was willing to go back to work in the West African nation despite what had happened, to be able to continue

supporting his family.

Before working overseas for the last 12 years, Anthony was a crew member of a doughnut shop in Dau, Pampanga. The shop closed in the wake of the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions.

He also previously worked for construction firms in Dubai in the Middle East, and in Louisiana in

the United States.

Wherever his next stint will be, Anthony has more than a survivor's tale to tell and a battered ear to show from his days in Nigeria.

"He said so himself: It seems like any thing good you have done, no matter how small, finds a way to give you something in return," Helen said.

First town ever auctioned now on sale again on eBay

From page A1

on the online auction site.

Nearly two years after he bought the tiny town of Bridgeville, suburban Los Angeles financial adviser Bruce Krall said Friday he plans to re-auction the northern California hamlet on eBay next month.

"Due to family reasons, I'm pretty much tied to Southern California for the foreseeable future," Krall said. "We can't move up there. It only makes sense to pass it on to somebody else."

Krall said the auction would open on April 4 with a minimum bid of \$1.75 million

(\$89.33 million)—more than twice what he paid for the 33-hectare property.

Bridgeville, a picturesque village with about 25 people on the Van Duzen River, sparked a bidding war in 2002 when it became the first town ever put up for sale on eBay.

The buyer, who won the auction with a \$1.78 million bid, never came to see the property and the deal fell through. The property was eventually posted on traditional real estate listings, and Krall bought it for about \$700,000 in May 2004. AP

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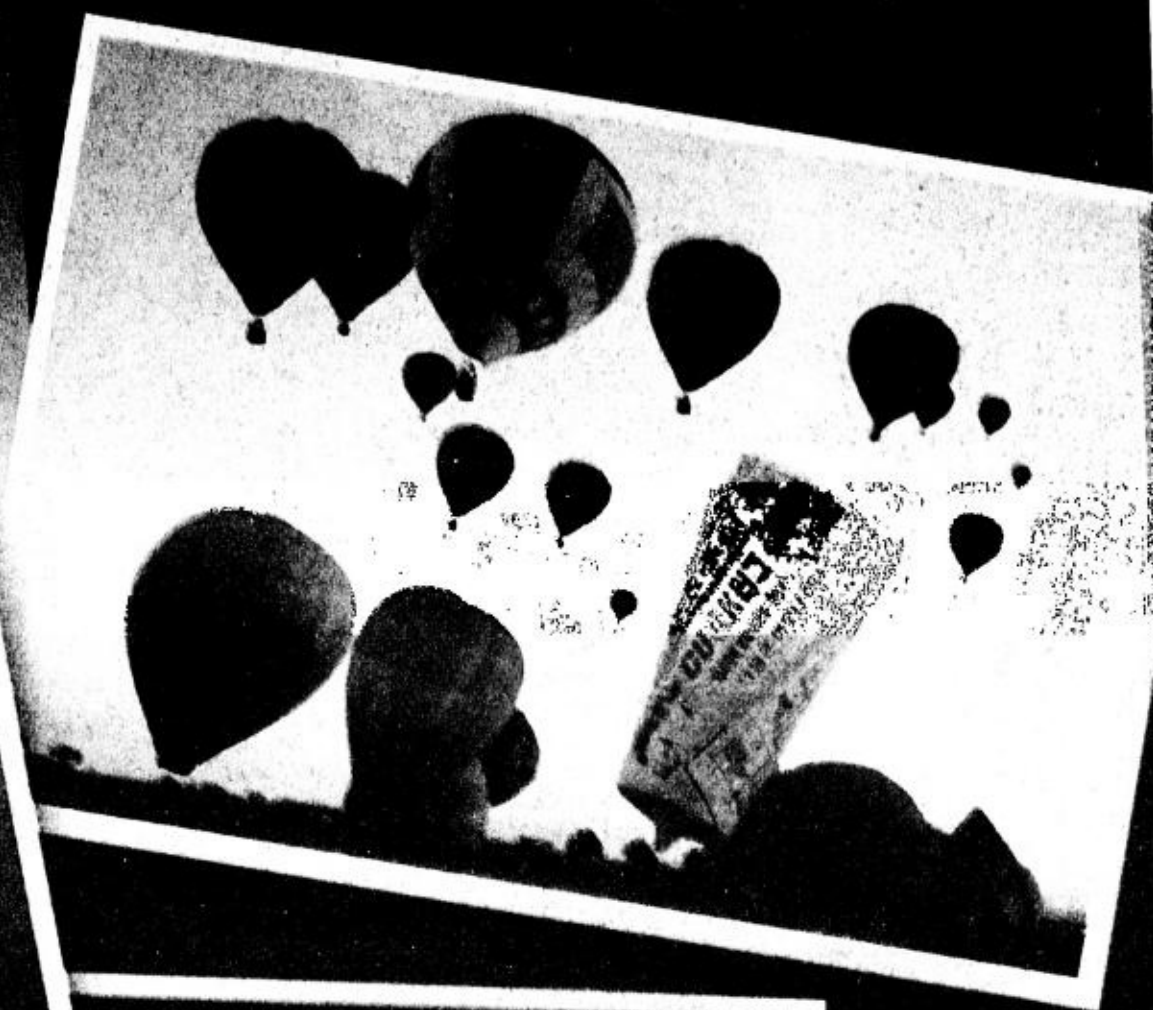
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OPINION

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Wild, and wrong

STRAIGHT OUT OF THE WILD, WILD WEST—there is no better way to describe the plan of the Arroyo administration to put up Wanted posters of alleged enemies of the state, complete with million-peso bounties on their head. The most odious aspect of the whole enterprise: the so-called rogues' gallery, which will include even those against whom the evidence of wrongdoing is still being collected.

EDITORIAL

In other words, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez did the entire nation a disservice when he announced his department's plan last week, because the new policy is based on a deeply cynical inversion of a fundamental principle in the administration of justice: the accused are considered innocent until proven guilty.

Not under Gonzalez's watch. In fact, Gonzalez did not offer a legal justification for the plan; like the political operative that he is, he merely described its practical aspects: how it will be implemented, who will implement it, against whom.

He said he has formed a "tracking team" of 10 National Bureau of Investigation agents; he said the administration will post Wanted posters in public places, and publish and air Wanted ads "similar to those used against suspected terrorists and kidnapers"; he said former senator and ex-coup plotter Gregorio Honasan led the list.

The closest he came to justifying the new policy was to attribute the original idea to President Macapagal-Arroyo. In the realm of partisan politics, presidential approval may be considered the highest form of validation; it has no place, however, in the impartial administration of justice. That the President first thought of the idea does not make the new policy necessarily legal; in fact, Gonzalez's admission only shows that the motive behind the idea is rankly political.

What the rogues' gallery does is to paint the Arroyo administration's alleged enemies with the broadest strokes, by mixing them with the deep red of actual communist rebels and the royal blue of military adventurers. Thus, in Gonzalez's list, one will find both the acknowledged spokesman of the Communist Party of the Philippines and some Magdalo mutineers mixed in with alleged anti-Arroyo conspirators.

That is the (political) point, of course: To convict even those still merely alleged to have participated in a conspiracy, through guilt by association. (And guilt by repeated publication, too, because the use of Wanted posters and the airing of Wanted ads are based on the Goebbels principle of repetition.) Of course, one is no longer surprised at this latest action of the administration; this may be a turn, but it cannot be described as a twist.

It is all of a piece. The new policy fits right in with the Arroyo administration's penchant for police-publicity photo-opportunities, which tramples on a suspect's right to be presumed innocent. It fits right in with the Arroyo administration's manic obsession with the legal principle of presumption of regularity, which runs roughshod over constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties. (Administration officials think everything they do is right, simply because they are in power.) It fits right in with the Arroyo administration's paranoid policy of calibrated preemptive response, which sees even peaceful assembly as a threat to its political survival.

The Wild, Wild West policy fits right in, like iron hand in leather glove.

Troubled biosphere

THE LAST FEW DECADES, FEATURING MANY NATURAL DISASTERS, will be remembered as well for the accelerated proliferation of previously unknown deadly viruses and bacteria. First Ebola, HIV, BSE, SARS. Now the deadly strain H5N1, carrier of the avian flu.

New pathogenic agents always emerge—of animal or vegetable origin—to attack the human race. And new contributions to the human defense shield are derived from globalized monitoring and from the vast amount of pharmaceutical drugs, including vaccines, serums, antibiotics, chemotherapy.

Still, biologists predict that in the near future there will be many more invisible flocks of enemies to tackle—how many is beyond the realms of scientific imagination. One can repeat forever, following traditional faith and trust, that "nature is kind." But instead, in all living things, it appears bellicose. There is no pacifism in the biosphere, or a lasting armistice.

Corriere della Sera (Milan, Italy)



De facto martial law

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



TO THOSE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED, I'M not a secessionist, much less a communist. I am a dedicated disciple of democracy. I'm not an oppositionist although I often criticize the administration. I have never voted for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and never will. I believe that the Arroyo who should be in Malacañang is not Gloria but Joker, and I'm not joking.

I am what you would call a disillusioned and discontented citizen. But my objections are circumscribed by the limits of the law. I do not skulk in the shadows to hatch plots against the government even if it has lost the confidence and support of the disenfranchised electorate. The change the nation desperately needs must be effected in accordance with the Constitution.

I'm an independent voter whose only loyalty is to the national interest. I do not belong to any political party or business or civic group with selfish or ulterior motives. I have religious persuasions but no active affiliations with preachers or rabbis or imams and especially sanctimonious charlatans. Prayer is powerful enough to move mountains but cannot by itself alone remove dictators.

I am not a paid hack. I write what I choose in this column without dictation or censorship from the INQUIRER, or from any one else. Freedom of expression is the paramount guardian of the people's rights in the democratic society. It is their courage, their weapon and their shield against oppression. And it should be available not so much for the placid thought as for the ideas that ask questions, promote dispute, and even provoke anger.

I do not like the present administration but would not have it replaced by violence. I do not trust the commanders of the AFP and the PNP who have subordinated their official responsibilities to private benefit and ambition. They now appear to control civilian authority, in-

cluding their commander in chief, through the barrel of the gun. Yet they continue to be helplessly confounded by the NPA, the Abu Sayyaf and even petty bandits.

I am depressed by the misfits who now exercise political power by virtue (or vice) of their tinsel popularity, monetary influence or thugery and intimidation. I am disappointed that we, the electorate, have permitted our country to deteriorate under their undeserved leadership. Election frauds, on every level of the government, have become customary and have even been taken for granted if not actually permitted or ignored.

The Garci tapes have placed in serious doubt the legitimacy of the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who has admitted a mere "lapse in judgment" and blocked further investigation of the case. In the Senate recently, a member accused a colleague of election fraud, the same offense imputed to him in an earlier election. If true, the reported burglary of ballot boxes vital to the case now pending in the Presidential Electoral Tribunal will prevent disclosure of the real winners in the 2004 presidential elections.

The widespread corruption in the government is the principal cause for the stagnation and even retrogression of our country. Deliberate lack of transparency, as dictated by President Arroyo herself, has prevented the discovery, investigation, and punishment of serious irregularities. Executive Order No. 464 now prevents Cabinet members and other execu-

tive officials from appearing before any legislative investigation without her permission. It was challenged more than five months ago before the Supreme Court, which has yet to rule upon it or at least temporarily restrain its enforcement.

But the most malignant problem of the country at present is the enforcement of martial law without the observance of the requirements of Art. VII, Sec. 18 of the Constitution. Among these are that it can be imposed only in case of rebellion or invasion, must be formally reported by the President to Congress within 48 hours and can last for only 60 days unless revoked or extended by it. The Constitution and the privilege of habeas corpus are not suspended, legislative assemblies cannot be abolished, functioning civil courts cannot be replaced by military tribunals, and persons arrested for rebellion or crimes connected with invasion must be released if not judicially charged within three days. And the Supreme Court cannot dismiss any challenge to martial law as a political question and must decide the case within 30 days.

The warrantless arrests of enemies of President Arroyo as suspected subversives, the raid of the Tribune for its attacks against her, the closure of a radio program for its criticisms of her administration, the suppression of lawful rallies as illegal assemblies, and the continued commission of other abuses permitted by Proclamation No. 1017 notwithstanding its token withdrawal are sinister proof of a de facto martial law hanging on the land.

We await the judgment of the Supreme Court on the challenged acts of Ms Arroyo as the officially proclaimed but statistically suspect President of the Philippines. Will she be upheld as a benevolent despot or denounced as a malevolent tyrant? Whatever be its verdict, let us hope it will be soon.

Speak!

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



dog. One way is by scaring it away, and the other way is by throwing food on its way. Thieves are experts in doing this, and, more often than not, they do get away with it. But not if the dog has a master on its side, from whom it can take orders. But come to think of it, there will be no thieves in the first place if there are ever-watchful dogs and vigilant masters by their side. At any rate, let us not be intimidated by force, or be silenced by perks.

Lent is all about going beyond one's comfort zones. Penance, sacrifices, acts of charity, sharing, moments of prayer are beautiful offerings, especially in this Lenten season. All these add up to a person's willingness to let go of one's selfishness and greed. Aside from the glory we give to God, and the concrete help we give to others, we who go beyond our comfort zones do good to our own selves because we become more whole and more free by doing so. Be good to yourself—be less selfish and greedy, and you are free. Let go, and let God, and you are never in want.

What if Jesus never spoke up? What if He never told the truth and fought for it? What if He never blew His top for the sake of God and for others? Then He would have been an incidental person just like you and me, and he would not have made at all a difference in human history. Forget form, forget fame. Go for truth. Go for substance.

What if Jesus never spoke up? Then the lies, injustices, malpractices during His time would have gone on and on. Then

there would have been no real change or conversion. Yes, precisely, things would have been the same, "as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be."

So happy to see alive and walking in our midst the provincial superior of SVD Botswana, our fellow Filipino missionary Fr. Pat de los Reyes, SVD, who was attacked by thieves and had to go through a cranial surgery in November 2005. This missionary has left the comforts of home, country and family, braving deprivation, loneliness and even persecution for the sake of the Gospel. We salute him and other nameless people who are not afraid to take a stand and who are not afraid to proclaim Gospel truths in the most trying circumstances.

It is graduation time again. It's a time for joy, and also a time for goodbyes. Some of our best friendships were the one's we made in school. But it is also consoling to be reassured that at opportune times in our lives, God sends us friends who walk the road and share the load with us. Indeed, as a text message I received so beautifully put it: "Friendship is not about whom you have known longest...it's about who came and never left your side."

By the way, don't forget the final graduation in heaven. Hope to see you there, and hope that we all make it to our Father's and our Big Brother's house where there will be no more pain, no more problems and no more lies.

Finally, heard about a guy who decided to speak during his trial? Threatened with contempt, he finally said: "Sorry Judge, I thought this was a hearing. I did not know I also had to do some speaking."

A moment with the Lord:
 Lord, help me not only to listen, but also to speak when the need arises. Amen.

Gen. Vicente P. Lim and the PMA

THERE IS A NEW TEAM AT THE PHILIPPINE Military Academy these days. The recently installed superintendent is Brig. Gen. Leopoldo L. Maligalig, an army officer who was the commander of the 402nd Infantry Brigade, which was stationed in Mindanao before his appointment as Commandant of Cadets, PMA, last year. A member of PMA Class 1976, Maligalig is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff Course. He also holds a master's degree in defense studies from the University of Canberra, New South Wales. The assistant superintendent is Air Force Col. Nicomedes B. Corpuz Jr., a member of PMA Class 1977. Corpuz, a veteran command pilot, was formerly the air attaché in Washington, D.C. and served as the assistant chief of staff for operations (A-3) of the Philippine Air Force prior to his assignment to the Academy.

The third member of the team is Brig. Gen. Pedro J. Binuya, the dean, Corps of Professors. He belongs to PMA Class 1975 and is an old hand at the PMA. Several months ago, during a brief conversation with Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, he expressed a desire to provide the PMA with a more stable leadership in terms of a longer tenure of office for the superintendent. Maligalig fits this requirement: Aside from being a dedicated officer aware of the problems confronting the AFP, he still has a number of years left before retirement from the service. He now is responsible for the crucial task of molding and developing members of the cadet corps who will one day assume leadership roles in our armed forces. We wish the new team all the best.

Yesterday marked the 50th anniversary of an honored tradition which has bound together the family of the late Gen. Vicente Lim and the graduates of the PMA. General Lim was the first Filipino to graduate from the US Military Academy, Class of 1914. Out of a class of 107, Lim occupied the 77th spot. Two of his sons followed in his foot-

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan



steps—Roberto finished at the US Naval Academy; and Vicente Jr., like his father, graduated from West Point. Both started out as cadets at the PMA prior to their appointments to the service academies in the United States.

With his West Point education, Lim was assigned to the faculty of the Philippine Constabulary School in Baguio City, the forerunner of today's PMA. The move marked a turning point in his life. In Baguio, he renewed acquaintance with Pilar Hidalgo, a mathematics instructor at the University of the Philippines who was one of the country's first female mathematicians. They were married on Aug. 12, 1917 at the Quiapo Catholic Cathedral in Manila.

Since 1956, the Lim family has provided all members of the PMA graduating class with the rank insignia for 2nd lieutenants. Our class was the first recipient of this gracious manifestation of affection and friendship from a family that traces its roots to one of the greatest military leaders of our nation. The brief ceremony was presided over by Ms. Pilar Hidalgo-Lim, widow of the general, and her son, Fr. Patricio Lim, who blessed the insignias. These were later pinned on us individually by our loved ones after receiving our commission as officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. It would be the first of several rank insignias that we would acquire as we moved up the ladder in our respective careers in the different major services of the AFP.

The Class of 2006, 324-strong, received their insignias from members of the Lim family led by

Roberto, Vicente Jr., Patricio and Ms. Pilar Lim-Ayuyao who was the official guest of honor for the occasion. The ceremony was followed by a parade and review by the cadet-corps honoring them. Just a personal note—Nieves Lim-Ledesma, daughter of Roberto, was a colleague of my wife Penny at the International School when it was still at its old location in Makati City.

During the early stages of the Pacific War, General Lim commanded the all-Filipino 41st Division which inflicted some of the heaviest casualties on invading Japanese forces in the fierce fighting which took place in the Bataan peninsula. After his release from the Capas concentration camp, he carried out underground work with the guerrillas. Sometime in June 1944, he was captured by a Japanese naval unit and taken to Fort Santiago. From there he was transferred to the Bilibid prison. It is believed that Lim was later executed by the Japanese. His remains were never located.

Some 36 years after his death, the family decided to publish the letters of General Lim to members of his family. These cover the period 1938 to 1942. They come in book form under the heading, "To inspire and to lead." The young men who attend the PMA can learn more from this book than from memorizing passages from manuals on military warfare, which are presented to them as history.

In possibly one of his last letters to his wife from the frontlines of Bataan, dated Feb. 20, 1942, Lim wrote, "I don't know if this letter will ever get to you but I am taking a chance hoping you will get it." He then provides details of the heroic fighting at his Abucay position, estimating Japanese casualties at about 40,000 dead and wounded. He cites his brave officers and says "I sincerely give the credit to my officers and enlisted men. They are the ones who did it all. Mine is only to inspire and to lead them."

Strolling along Baywalk

IS WEARING A BLACK T-SHIRT CONSIDERED A "subversive" act these days? If a group of people should choose to take a sunset stroll along Baywalk, should they be arrested for illegal assembly?

These and other questions were raised with the arrest last Friday of Dinky Soliman and Enteng Romano, for holding an "illegal assembly" without benefit of a permit from Manila City Hall. As Dinky raised in a harried discussion with the arresting officers, it is now a crime to walk along the sidewalk wearing a T-shirt bearing a provocative slogan? Would such a gathering now be considered a protest rally?

But even if it were, the legality of the administration's repressive moves and attempts to quash every form of free speech and peaceful assembly is even now being assailed in various legal forums, including a pending case before the Supreme Court. And yet, despite the legal infirmities of their authority to crack down on all protests, police officials seem to be applying ever-narrower standards to determine what constitutes "illegal" assemblies.

THE "BLACK FRIDAY" gathering, of which the Baywalk stroll was already the third such assembly, was conceived as a "creative" expression of people's sentiments regarding current issues, including the growing demand for the President's resignation.

As explained in the invitation for the first "Black Friday" gathering, a massing up at various Starbucks outlets patterned after "flash mobs," the leaders of the Black and White Movement thought of such "alternative" protests to reach those turned off by rallies and demos or scared of being branded as radicals or subversives.

But with the break-up of the Baywalk stroll, the Arroyo administration seems determined to quash even peaceful, fun and harmless expressions of dissent. There's a saying that goes: "Ang pikon, talo (The one who loses his cool loses)." If anti-GMA critics can't even be allowed to walk along Manila Bay while wearing black T-shirts, it seems obvious who's losing this war for hearts and minds.

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



RARE is the couple who can receive the news of a child's disability with equanimity, much less a new resolve. The common reaction, expectedly, is shock and disbelief, if not outright denial and anger. But for Joseph and Nanette Yu, finding out about their son Jethric's disability or "special-ness" became the impetus for founding a school for special children—broadening, in a way, their love and care for Jethric, who is one of their first-born twins (the other twin is daughter Nicole)—to reach out to other children and even adults facing similar challenges.

The Specialities Development Center (SDC) aims to "educate and train individuals with disabilities, to fully equip them with the necessary skills and the adequate knowledge to gain some measure of independence as they live out their lives." Opening their doors to children and adults with autism, ADHD/ADD, Down's Syndrome, speech delay, learning and developmental disabilities, cerebral palsy, and traumatic brain injury, SDC offers not just classroom education but also socio-emotional counseling, even occupational skills for the adult students.

At a lunch with the Yus and other media people, SDC directress Ting Valdepenas shared how they have to streamline their teaching methods to respond adequately to every student's special needs. "Individualized education" is a keystone of the school's philosophy, with the faculty believing that "every person is unique in his needs, abilities, learning style, attitudes and behavior."

Located along Biak na Bato Street in Manresa, Quezon City, SDC boasts of a swimming pool, basketball court, badminton court and a large schoolyard to provide for both the academic and

sports/recreation needs of its special student body.

The school is also affiliated with restaurants, laundromats, bakeshops, car wash shops, cafés, water stations and various business establishments where adult students could train and possibly acquire gainful employment. The Yus and Valdepenas believe that part of the school's mission is to prove that, with adequate preparation, developmentally disabled individuals could lead independent, productive lives.

AMONG THE SCHOOLS features that SDC's owners and faculty boast of are a low student-teacher ratio "to effectively guide and supervise every student"; an individualized education plan (IEP) prepared for every student to respond to his or her present level, educational goals and the methods to achieve these goals; imported software and up-to-the-minute instructional materials; and a team of inter-disciplinary professionals ready to provide support to each student.

One of the programs of SDC is an "interactive community experience program" where students will enjoy the opportunity to visit different institutions in the community, such as churches, banks, fire stations, bookstores and others to "apply, enhance and validate" classroom learning. At the same time, such community visits will help students "connect" with the larger world outside the school's walls and integrate with diverse groups of people.

Indeed, even after they have reconciled themselves with a child's disability, parents still have a hard time overcoming their instinct to protect their child from strangers and stressful situations, believing that keeping their child isolated and cocooned within the confines of home and school is best for the child. But parents won't be around forever, and adjusting and getting used to dealing with the outside world is necessary if the child is to survive and to flourish. This is what SDC and similar institutions seek to provide—a chance for people with disabilities to prove their worth and give meaning to their lives.

A nation overtaxed by politics

IN MODERN, STABLE DEMOCRACIES, POLITICS is kept within institutional limits. It is not allowed to invade other spheres of society, or to occupy the greater part of a nation's time. The public remains conscious that there are other equally important things in life worth pursuing. There is art, there is economics, there is science, there is religion, and there is family life, etc.

Nations undergoing the difficult transition to modern democracy—like the Philippines—tend to spend a lot of time on politics. Every single aspect of public life tends to be politicized. Thus it is the utterances of politicians rather than the achievements of artists, writers, teachers and scientists that hog the public's attention.

Politics, of course, is basic to a society's life. Through politics, a nation produces decisions that bind every citizen. Such decisions take the form of laws and of government programs.

Crucial to the exercise of the political function is legitimacy. This is not merely a question of faithfulness to legal procedure, or of possession of valued qualities, or of confirmation by an external authority. More than all of these, legitimacy is a claim to a mandate that, all things considered, a modern nation is prepared to grant.

A head of state whose mandate is in question will have a hard time enforcing the nation's collective decisions, its laws, and its programs. He or she may not be able to govern at all. His or her mandate will be continuously challenged before the courts or in the terrain of politics, by opposition parties, by social movements, or by citizens' groups.

The function of the legal system, says the theorist Niklas Luhmann from whom I borrow these ideas, is to "stabilize normative expectations." This simply means that it is the task of the law to establish a clear and consistent line between the legal and the illegal. When courts fail to produce decisive rulings on issues put before them, the tendency is for these issues to be re-politicized.

The political system is the realm of politics, administration and the public. In modern democra-

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



cies, issues are continuously debated by the party in power and the opposition. The outcomes of this debate—which normally take the form of legislation—are then submitted to the public, which may approve or dissent from them depending upon its perception of their reasonableness.

Administration is the structure through which collectively binding decisions are enforced. When administration is co-opted by private agenda and deviates from the legal mode, it loses its effectiveness.

Using these basic concepts, we may begin to understand the profound crisis we are facing today. We can start from any point and unravel the issues. I find it helpful to start with the events surrounding Edsa II in 2001.

The impeachment of the incumbent president, Joseph Estrada, was then in progress. Administration and opposition were locked in debate. The public avidly watched and commented on every outcome of the televised proceedings. On a crucial vote concerning the admissibility of a piece of evidence, the proceedings were disrupted by the walkout of the prosecution. The walkout triggered a mass demonstration at the Edsa Shrine, demanding the ouster of Estrada. On the second day of this public demonstration, the AFP chief of staff and the commanders of the armed services climbed the stage to manifest their withdrawal of allegiance to the incumbent president. This was a mutiny by the nation's soldiers, a political act that patently violated the Constitution.

Estrada refused to resign. Citing the possibility of public unrest in the face of the stalemate, the

Supreme Court decided to come to the Edsa Shrine and swear in Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo as president, without prejudice to a challenge being filed later. Indeed, at least two petitions were subsequently filed before the Supreme Court. In both instances, the high court ruled that Ms. Arroyo's succession to the presidency was valid. But no matter how one looks at it, the Supreme Court compromised its autonomy when it collectively took part in a political event whose constitutional validity it would later rule upon.

Still, legitimacy is what people will accept. While a big segment of the population manifested their rejection of Ms. Arroyo in May 2001, the AFP stood by her. The outcome of that year's senatorial election confirmed the split in the public's loyalties.

These events overtaxed our young institutions. The political instability they spawned might have been put to rest if Ms. Arroyo had not run in the 2004 presidential race. Her decision to be a candidate, even while she enjoyed the full powers of the presidency, overburdened the bureaucracy. The first casualty was the Commission on Elections, which she packed with appointees hardly known for their probity and independence. Then there were the government agencies that became the funnel for the massive public funds used to finance high-profile Arroyo projects during the election campaign. The one institution that bore the brunt of excessive politics was the AFP itself. The price of this is the military fragmentation we have today.

The way out of this rut, if there be any, is the activation of the remaining institutional processes in order to prevent the monopolization of power by Ms. Arroyo and her group. The courts are crucial here. Their failure to act with dispatch only encourages Ms. Arroyo to resort to coercion to solve her legitimacy problem, and the opposition to employ extra-constitutional means to dislodge her government.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Cardinal Rosales' eye for the poor

SHORTLY BEFORE HE LEFT FOR ROME FOR HIS investiture as a cardinal, Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales offered an advice to housing officials—on how to be more humane and respectful in dealing with the poor.

If you think about it, it is a message more radical than the one being sent out by street protesters. But it is a message that is based on the Gospel and the social teachings of the Church. It can turn our ordinary ways of governance upside down.

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

The cardinal spoke at the end of a long meeting he had arranged in his office with officials from the National Housing Authority, headed by its general manager, Federico Laxa. There were other bishops and priests in the meeting. Also present were families evicted from the SouthRail tracks and relocated to Cabuyao, Laguna. Some 48,000 families will be evicted eventually in the largest eviction in Philippine history, and that number doesn't include the thousands of families on the NorthRail and the families along the SouthRail from Calamba to Legazpi City. It's possible that 150,000 families or 800,000 people, half of them children, will be affected.

It's clear, the cardinal said, from what the people have told us that much has been done by the government to resettle families, but there are also important matters that have been neglected or overlooked, knowingly or unknowingly—matters that are absolutely needed and treasured by the poor; and these are family income and the education of their children.

He said polls reveal a picture of the growing poverty in the country. They also show that for the poor, the highest priority needs are jobs or income, and children's schooling, housing and health. The government, in its resettlement work, hasn't paid enough attention to these essential needs, the cardinal said. It has cut short the school year for thousands of children but there is no guarantee there will be classes in June in the Cabuyao relocation area.

Besides, the distance of the relocation sites from the families' "original" homes cuts deeply into the family income (some say by 40-50 percent). Husbands may have to stay and rent a place in Metro Manila to hold on to their work since there are no jobs for them in the Cabuyao relocation area, which is 45 kilometers away. And it will be too expensive to commute (P200 for a round-trip). This means, the families will have two sets of—or additional—household expenses. Neither the wives nor the children have the chance to earn supplementary income in Cabuyao, where opportunities are few and far between.

"The government must place the poor in the center of its planning," the cardinal said adding that it cannot overlook education and family income; this is not right. We must give priority to the poor; we must respect their civil and socio-economic rights. As Christians, we must see Jesus in the poor: "As often as you do it to these the least of my brothers, you do it to me."

He offered another example of disordered priorities. Subdivisions for middle-class families are readied with light, housing, potable water, drainage and security, even before people start moving into them, he said. But in the case of government-supervised/initiated resettlements, the poor people are transferred first to the relocation areas, and only then are improvements made on the sites—little by little at that. This is not the way to do things if we want to treat our poorer brothers and sisters with respect and humanity, he said. "Finish the relocation area, then bring the people (in)."

The cardinal insisted we must all understand that the ways of the poor are not those of the well-off and powerful; and we should, therefore, be careful in imposing cut-off dates, deadlines, long lists of required documents and the like. What difference does it make if a poor family must begin to live in an area in 2003 or 2004? Does the one who meets the requirement and beats the cutoff date deserve to be relocated, and the other who fails deserve to be thrown into the streets? What difference does the cutoff date make in the eyes of God? It is not right to put a poor family on the street. Please, adapt your plans to the ways of the poor. Make the poor the prime beneficiaries of your work and your first concern, the cardinal urged the NHA officials.

He asked the government to stop all demolitions until the school year ends in April, and to exert every effort to have classes in the relocation area in June. He also asked the government to take another critical look at the distance of the relocation site. Sending families 45 km or more away from their workplaces has been the root problem of past relocation projects. The cardinal said that families should be allowed to look for alternative relocation sites nearer to their homes, schools and jobs. "Repeat some of the good things you did in the NorthRail (project)," he told the government. "Look again for land in Metro Manila."

One of those affected by the relocation suggested there is so much idle land in Fort Bonifacio. The cardinal didn't hear the suggestion but, of this I have no doubt: he would agree that the suggestion is worth looking into.

Above all, the cardinal said—in a very eloquent and touching way at the end of his comments—government officials must try to empathize with the poor and see reality from their point of view; and, as importantly, to keep the poor and their needs at the center of their plans.

What the cardinal said of relocation planning applies to all government planning. There must be a radical shift in the way government draws up its plans. The railroad, for example, is planned and the poor are perceived as a problem, an obstacle to the completion of the project. The cardinal proposed that we look at the railroad and the poor as one, and ask how the poor can also benefit from all the investments made in the project. We must plan for a good railroad and for the basic needs of the poor—such as income, jobs (jobs bring dignity), education of children and decent housing. This is not a matter of "either-or," but of "yes-yes." This outlook should guide all planning, all infrastructure projects and all budgeting—the poor must be the priority.

It is clear that the cardinal's message is meant not only for the government, but also for all who deal with the poor, including the NGOs, foundations, protest groups, ideologists, revolutionaries and the Church itself.

We have tried the ultra-pragmatic, the get-the-job-done at any cost approach. It hasn't worked! Maybe the country's sure path to a bright future is the path of the good, pro-poor and humane.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN



Intimidating the media

ON THE DAY PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO LIFTED THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the administration achieved its objective of stopping the media from supposedly allowing themselves to be used by anti-administration forces. Gonzalez claimed that Presidential Proclamation 1017, which placed the country under a state of emergency for a week until March 3, had some "sobering effect" on the media.

The "sobering effect," if there was any, came after raids by the police on the Daily Tribune and Abante, the deployment of troops to TV stations, the suspension of the radio program "Ngayon na, Bayan!" and the filing of sedition charges against the editor in chief and two columnists of the Daily Tribune.

DOJ charges are ridiculous

By Sheila S. Coronel

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ANC ON THE afternoon of March 15, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that the government was monitoring the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ). "It is very clear," he said, "they have been posting on their website many things I consider inciting to sedition. We are studying them."

"For example," he added, "the fact that it kept on posting the matters in the 'Garci' tape is violative of [Republic Act] 4200 (the anti-wiretapping law)."

This charge is ridiculous. In June 2005, the PCIJ posted the three-hour audio recording of the alleged phone conversations of former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Our intent was to inform the public of the contents of those conversations so that it could make an independent judgment on the allegations of election fraud. The recording was clearly a matter of public interest, and it was this interest that we were upholding.

How can we be accused of inciting to sedition and of violating the anti-wiretap-

ping law by posting the audio files of a tape that had been played in Congress? Radio and television stations had played portions of the tape as well.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye even played and presented to the media a different version of the supposedly wiretapped recording. Moreover, that recording is posted on about a dozen other websites and blogs.

Yet, the justice secretary has prejudged our case and made a conclusion without giving the PCIJ the benefit of due process. How can a justice secretary do that?

As far as we know, the Bill of Rights and the Rules of Court are still in place. We are presumed innocent until proven guilty. We cannot be pronounced guilty on his mere say so.

I would like to ask the justice secretary: When the PCIJ published its exposés on the unexplained wealth and mansions of former President Joseph Estrada in 2001, were we also inciting to sedition? Our reports were used in the impeachment charge against Estrada. Were we inciting to sedition then? If some people went to Edsa after reading our reports, was that inciting to sedition?

If it is, then any legitimate piece of investigative journalism is seditious. Then anything that comes out in the media today can be construed as seditious.

Secretary Gonzalez intends to intimidate the PCIJ. That is not his job. The job of the justice secretary is to provide an enabling environment that allows free and responsible journalism to be practiced. It is to protect journalists like ourselves from harassment suits and ridiculous charges. Instead, he has become the purveyor of these charges. We are so very disappointed.

(Coronel is the executive director of the PCIJ.)

Palace using communist bogey

By Dee Ayroso

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION IS using the good old communist bogey, this time to suppress the press.

Our audio-visual group, Kodao Productions, was named in the affidavit of Malacañang witness Jaime Puentes as a propaganda unit of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army. Puentes claimed to be "assigned" to Kodao in 1987.

He implicated us in the destabilization plot by saying that the Feb. 20 interview with Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal in our radio program "Ngayon na, Bayan!" aired on dzRJ-AM station was part of the propaganda campaign to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

First of all, it is impossible for Puentes to be assigned to Kodao in 1987, since it was formed only in 2001 after the Edsa People Power II. Second, there was never any Kodao staff named Jaime Puentes. And third, were we the

only radio program that interviewed Ka Roger?

For five years, "Ngayon na, Bayan!" aired from Monday to Friday on dzRJ AM Radyo Bandido 810 khz. We are thankful to the Rajah Broadcasting Network for advocating the same goals of good governance, public service and people empowerment.

Golden Dove

For our part, we have brought prestige to dzRJ by winning awards like the 2002 Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas Golden Dove Award for Best Public Affairs Program for Radio in Metro Manila, and by being a consistent finalist in the Catholic Mass Media Awards from 2001 to 2005.

"Ngayon na, Bayan!" was cancelled by dzRJ on March 6, a week after being suspended on Feb. 24 (the day Ms Arroyo issued Proclamation No. 1017). Station owner Ramon Jacinto said the show was cancelled due to "political

differences" with Kodao Productions.

Based on the timing of our suspension, however, we have a strong reason to believe that the dzRJ management finally gave in to pressures from Malacañang. This peculiar situation makes "Ngayon na, Bayan!" the first "media casualty" of Proclamation No. 1017.

Hysterical

Since our first airing in February 2001, the anticommunist group National Alliance for Democracy (NAD), which also runs a radio program on dzRJ, has been pushing the station's management to cancel our program. NAD personalities would always call in and accuse our anchor Sonia Capiro and her co-hosts of being *kommunist*.

Capiro would always fairly air their calls, laughing off the hysterical accusations. Indeed, Fuentes was not the first to brand Kodao and our radio program as a propaganda arm of the CPP. Some of our callers and texters had also

done that.

The big difference is that our award-winning radio program is now off the air. Unlike in the past when we only received verbal accusations, this time the accusation against us was included in an affidavit of no less than a Malacañang witness. The danger that such claims poses to media practitioners is real.

Cuban ambassador

From 2001 to 2006, Ka Roger was not the only one we interviewed on air. We also had phone patch interviews with other personalities like Prof. Jose Maria Sison, Luis Jalandoni, as well as the Cuban and Venezuelan ambassadors.

They talked about issues like the socialist alternative, the US war on terror and the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. What's wrong with interviewing them? People want to

hear what they have to say.

We gave these people as much airtime as we gave to the urban poor who talked about eating pagpag (food collected from garbage dump), the grieving families of disappeared or slain activists, the hacienda workers who lived on P9.50 a week and the Moro families who bore the brunt of the government's war against the Abu Sayyaf.

These are the people whose lives are hardly discussed and whose voices are rarely heard on commercial radio. With the cancellation of our radio program, the venue for freely expressing their views got silenced, too.

If the Arroyo administration can silence "Ngayon na, Bayan!" and use the communist bogey on a media outfit like Kodao, it is clear that press freedom has clearly gone to the (anticommunist) dogs and it is incumbent upon all of us to unite and fight for its restoration!

(Ayroso is the director for radio of Kodao Productions, Inc.)

'RJ was not pressured by Malacañang'

By the management
of Rajah Broadcasting Network
(Radyo Bandido)

FOR FIVE YEARS, DZRJ, RADYO BANDO, has given free daily airtime of one-and-a-half to two hours to "Ngayon na, Bayan!" on the understanding that it

would be strictly an educational program to help the nation.

On several occasions, we received complaints from listeners that the program was being used to incite the people to join rallies of Leftist elements.

Despite several warnings, these activities continued.

In a frank exchange, it was explained to the

producers that their efforts to rally the people to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo and to install a civilian-military junta were harmful to the country at this point.

While the station respected the views of the producers and, in fact, gave them five years of free time even though other block timers paid for their time, "Ngayon na, Bayan!" did not adhere to the under-

standing that the program would strictly be educational.

Thus, when the Feb. 24 protests were being used in an attempt to oust the administration, the station management decided to suspend the program.

Up to this point, the program is still suspended. There is no final decision to cut it completely.

We want to clarify that Radyo Bandido has fought Presidents when it believed it was for the good of the country. It was always fought for the people.

It can never be and was not pressured by Malacañang.

(Rajah Broadcasting Network owns and operates dzRJ.)

Tightening the screws

Feb. 24 President Macapagal-Arroyo proclaims a state of emergency, claiming there is a conspiracy to overthrow the government among communist rebels, some military officers and members of the opposition.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael says media organizations face risks of being taken over by the government. "[Closing down a media outfit] depends on how it (an interview) will be carried out. We hope at this point there will be no interviews that will be put out relating to the extreme Right and Left in the present situation," he says.

Hours after Ms Arroyo's declaration, "Ngayon na, Bayan!" loses its block time on dzRJ.

Feb. 25 Police raid the editorial offices of the Daily Tribune, and tabloids Abante and Abante Tonite and the military deploys troops to the compounds of TV networks ABS-CBN and GMA 7.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao says the PNP will take over any media organization that will not follow "standards set by the government."

Feb. 26 During the standoff at the Marines headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Defenseor calls for a news blackout.

The standoff was triggered by Marine Col.

Ariel Querubin call for "people power" to protest the relief of Marine chief Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda. Supporters troop to Fort Bonifacio to pray. Hours later, Querubin talks with the new commandant, Brig. Gen. Nelson Allaga.

Allaga declares at 10:45 p.m. he is in command of the Marines and announces, "We will follow the chain of command." The Marines later return to barracks.

Feb. 27 The Daily Tribune asks the Supreme Court to nullify Proclamation 1017. Its also asks for the pullout of the PNP team guarding the Tribune premises.

Gonzalez instructs the regional office of the National Bureau of Investigation to monitor the content of Illoilo-based publications Panay News and Daily Informer.

Feb. 28 The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) says it will allow the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas to formulate its own guidelines on news coverage.

March 1 About 100 members of the National Press Club and the Alayansa ng Pilipinong Mamamahayag hold a rally in front of the NPC building in Intramuros, Manila. At least 10 journalists shave their heads to protest the crackdown on media. The Philippine Press Institute calls on media organizations "to expose and to resist any State attempt to limit their exercise of press freedom."

The Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists sends a protest letter to Ms Arroyo. The Washington-based Radio-Television News Directors Association also issued a statement calling on Ms Arroyo "to rescind measures she has taken to limit press freedom in her country."

March 3 Ms Arroyo lifts the emergency rule, but declares she will not hesitate to act "with the same force of will and determination" if her opponents persist in "inflicting instability on the nation."

Inciting to sedition charges are filed against Tribune editor in chief Niñez Cacho-Olivares and columnists Ike Señeres and Herman Tiu-Laurel. The same day, police pull out of the Tribune office. Gonzalez says the DOJ is evaluating ABS-CBN's coverage of the Marine standoff for possible inciting to sedition charges.

March 4 Gonzalez says seven more print and broadcast personalities are being monitored for possible inciting to sedition charges, adding that these are different from those on a list prepared by Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

An NTC memorandum to KBP members says news from anonymous sources should no longer be aired. The memo was based on the guidelines formulated by KBP.

March 6 Evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva laments that QTV Network's decision to not air

"Diyos at Bayan," which dealt with Edsa I and Proclamation 1017, was based on government censorship.

March 8 In a petition before the Court of Appeals, nine journalist groups and about three dozen news people ask the court to stop the government from imposing censorship and prior restraint on the press.

March 9 Maria Ressa, head of ABS-CBN's News and Current Affairs, says a government official asked the network on Feb. 26 to stop airing the Marine standoff. Meanwhile, officials of the network and GMA 7 want a provision in their franchise repealed because it allows the President to take over broadcast stations in times of emergency.

March 10 In a position paper submitted to the Senate, NTC claims it has the power "to suspend or revoke the authorization granted to a broadcast entity upon prior notice and hearing" under the 1936 Public Services Act.

March 12 The military warns the Inquirer against publishing articles about alleged attempts by "puppet masters" to divide the military in a bid to unseat the President. Spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison says the military is considering filing charges.

March 13 PNP presents hooded witness Jaime Fuentes at a preliminary investigation of the six party-list representatives. Fuentes claims

Kodao Productions Inc., the producer of "Ngayon na, Bayan!" is a propaganda arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Host Sonia Capiro denies this.

March 14 At a Senate hearing, Sheila Coronel, executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, says Quezon City police officers attempted twice but failed to obtain warrants to search the PCIJ offices, reportedly in connection with sedition charges against five staff members. She adds the police were accompanied by audio engineer Jonathan Tiongo, who filed last year inciting to sedition charges against PCIJ for posting the "Hello Garci" recordings in its blog.

Tiongo was presented by Defenseor to reporters in August 2005 in a bid to question the authenticity of the wiretaps. At the hearing, Cacho-Olivares claims the office telephone lines of the Daily Tribune have remained bugged.

March 15 In an ANC interview, Gonzalez reveals the government is monitoring PCIJ because "they have been posting on its website many things I consider as inciting to sedition," including the Garci recordings.

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Church joins call for stop to Bulacan slays

SAN ILDEFONSO, BULACAN—The Catholic Church and its affiliate organizations and civic groups have joined calls for the end of the rash of violence in this town and other parts of the province.

Diocese of Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros, in his homily during a Mass at the grounds of St. Ildefonso Church here on Saturday, said this town "has indeed become a killing field."

"We cry out peace, peace. There is no peace, especially now that we are seeing and experiencing the very strong need for peace in the province, particularly in this town," Oliveros told at least 500 people who gathered at the church grounds for the Mass.

Mayor Edgardo Galvez said at least 11 people, most of them suspected to be members of the New People's Army and members of militant groups, in this town have been killed since January. He said at least seven people have been abducted and were reported missing.

Oliveros said they held the "special Mass for peace" to ask God to touch the hearts of those behind the violent incidents.

He said in the past months, the cost of lives in this town "has become very, very cheap" due to the series of killings, abductions and other forms of human rights violations.

Oliveros said he has appealed to President

Macapagal-Arroyo to help end the violence in Bulacan, where political activists have been killed since last year.

The bishop asked people to "become instruments of peace," especially amid the series of political killings and crime in the province.

The latest murder victim in this town was Arnold Pastrana, 26, and a businessman. He was shot dead by a group of men who barged into his house in Barangay Bulusucan on Tuesday night. The suspects took Pastrana's M-16 rifle and other firearms and abducted his father, Mario.

On Feb. 1, five men were killed in separate incidents in Barangay Pinaod.

Reports said most of the murder victims in Bulacan were suspected to be members of the New People's Army and were leaders or members of militant groups.

Earlier, Fr. Rolando de Leon, spokesperson of the human rights group Alyansa ng Mamamayan para sa Pantaong Karapatan (Alimma), blamed Army soldiers in San Ildefonso, San Miguel and Norzagaray towns for the killings and abductions.

Military officials in the province had denied their men's involvement in the killings.

Supt. Ronaldo Ilagan, head of the Bulacan police's 306th provincial mobile group, said at least 100 policemen from his command and from the regional mobile group in Pampanga were sent here on Thursday to ensure peace and order in the town's 36 villages.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

ROUNDUP

Unidentified bodies found

BALOI, Lanao del Norte—Authorities are still trying to identify two decomposing bodies unearthed in a riverside village of this town on Wednesday, although it was widely believed the bodies were that of the missing relatives of Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno. The bodies were dug by a joint team of police and Marine soldiers from a shallow grave in Barangay Landa. Maj. Minandang Macatoot, 3rd Marine Battalion executive officer, said the recovery team had to pull the bodies using four carabaos because of the steepness of the ravine where these were buried. In Dimayon village in nearby Tagoloan town just across the same river, a green Pajero with license plate UVW-907 was also found buried and topped with cogon grass, said Lt. Roderick Bunyi, also of the 3rd Marine Battalion. He added that another car plate was also retrieved from the area. Macatoot said the recovered vehicle matched the description of the vehicle reportedly used by Manuel Natindim, 41, a cousin of Moreno, and Marlon Roa, a nephew of the governor, when they disappeared on March 9.

Ryan D. Rosaura, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Village in state of calamity

TUPI, South Cotabato—The barangay council of Palian approved a resolution on Wednesday putting the village under a state of calamity. The action would enable the barangay to use its 5-percent calamity fund to help victims of the twister that hit the village on Tuesday. At least 19 houses were destroyed by the whirlwind that also flattened 50 hectares of farms according to the South Cotabato social welfare office.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Police miss out on kidnappings

CEBU CITY—Government and police authorities in Cebu were caught by surprise by the revelation of leaders of the business community here that two businessmen have been kidnapped in Cebu since January. The last victim was a prominent Manila-based Chinese-Filipino businessman who was kidnapped in Cebu early this month, according to Robert Go, president of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCCI). Go said the ransom pay-off did not materialize after his kidnappers were accidentally arrested on March 5 at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport after they were caught with fake police IDs and firearms. Go said the businessman's kidnappers-guard left him at the kidnappers' hideout because they panicked when they learned that their four companions had been arrested. The four suspected kidnappers were freed two days later after they each posted bail. Police in Lapu-Lapu City are now in hot water for their failure to uncover the kidnapping.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Rice supply assured

CEBU CITY—There is still enough supply of rice for Eastern Visayas especially in Samar despite the loss of the 17,000 sacks of government rice following the sinking of a cargo vessel on Saturday night. The assurance was made by National Food Authority (NFA) Cebu Manager Raul Chong who facilitated the transport of the NFA rice for Catbalogan Samar on board MV Premship-X which sank after colliding with another cargo vessel about 1.5 nautical miles off Barangay Tayud in Consolacion town. But Chong said the cargo was just a buffer stock for Samar for the month of May.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Village chief draws jail term

ROXAS CITY—The regional trial court has sentenced a former village chief here to a prison term of 12 years and one day to 14 years and eight months for illegal possession of shabu. Judge Charlito Fantlanan of RTC Branch 18 also ordered Abner Bengon, former chair of Barangay 5 to pay a fine of P300,000. The court also cancelled Bengon's P200,000 bail and ordered his detention at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) here. Fantlanan, however, acquitted Bengon in the other count of illegal drug possession for lack of merit.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

Zambales cop chief, 24 other cops sacked

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—Director General Arturo Lomibao relieved the provincial police chief of Zambales and the 24 policemen in Botolan town following a raid by communist rebels on the town's police station on Friday.

Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, Central Luzon police director, said Lomibao, the Philippine National Police chief, also directed the reassignment of Botolan policemen to this regional police camp for retraining.

Speaking to the INQUIRER by phone from Botolan on Saturday, Lapinid said Senior Supt. Edgardo Ladao, Zambales police director, was replaced by his deputy, Senior Supt. Arrazad Subong while Senior Insp. Quintin Mascariña, Botolan police chief, was replaced by Insp. Oliver Montero.

The town police force has been replaced by members of the PNP's mobile group, Lapinid said.

The Botolan police lost three M-16 rifles and two 9 mm guns in the 6:20 p.m. raid, a report from Subong said.

The report said at least 20 New People's Army rebels executed the raid in just five minutes and without firing their guns.

Described by Lapinid as "well-planned and precise," the raid used a young woman who posed as a rape victim.

Accompanied by a man who claimed to be a lawyer, she demanded attention from the three policemen and a policewoman who were at the station at that time. Tonette Orejas and Cesar Villa, with reports from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk



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OPEN LETTER TO OUR LEADERS:

WHY WE ARE NOT OUT IN THE STREETS

Dear Tita Cory, Senators, Congressmen, Businessmen, Media People, Leftists and all Bleeding Hearts Out There,

I am angry. And I know that there are many out there who are angrier than I am for the same reason. And that reason is simple. I am sick and tired of all you guys claiming to speak for me and many Filipinos. I feel like screaming every time you mouth words about fighting for my freedom and my rights, when you obviously are just thinking about yours. You tell me that the essence of democracy is providing every citizen the right to speak his or her mind and make his or her own informed judgments, but you yourselves do not respect my silence and the choices I and many others have made. In other words, your concept of democracy is limited to having your rights and your freedoms respected, at the expense of ours. I am utterly flabbergasted that you still do not get it: we already responded to your calls, and our response has been very clear - we chose not to heed your calls to go to EDSA or to Fort Bonifacio not because we do not love our country or our freedom or our rights, but precisely because we love our country even more. Because quite frankly, we are prepared to lose our freedom and our rights just to move this country forward. You may counter with your ideological propaganda and give me all the dire warnings about the evils of Martial Law, authoritarian rule, suppression of freedom, etc., but quite frankly all we see is your pathetic efforts to defend your right to continue fulfilling, filibustering, and sabotaging this country until you wrestle power for yourselves. You tell me that you are simply protecting my freedoms and my rights, but who told you to do that? I assure you that when I feel that my rights and my freedoms are at a peril, I will stand up and fight for them myself. I have done that in the past, and I will do it again when I SEE THE NEED FOR IT, not when you tell me to do it. You tell us that GMA is not the right person to lead this country because she has done immoral acts. As someone who sees immorality being committed wantonly in many ways everyday and by everyone (yes, including the ones you do), I may have become jaded. I may have lowered my standards about what a leader should be. Guess what, Tita Cory, you lowered it yourself. When I accepted your incompetence and fought for you during the many attempts against your government, I already lowered the standards to ridiculous levels. Guess what, Senators and Congressmen, you lowered it yourselves when you ran for office and won and now make fools of yourselves in the august halls of Congress. But the simple truth that you try to obfuscate is this: you have not been able to offer me any viable alternative! On the other hand, GMA has bent over backwards many times to accommodate you while continuing to work hard despite all the obstacles and the brickbats you have thrown her way. From where I sit, she is the one who has been working really hard to move this country forward while all of you have been so busy with one and only one thing: to make sure she does not succeed. So forgive me if I do not want to join you in your moral pissing contest. Forgive me if I have chosen to see things from another perspective. You say she is the problem. I say, we are - all of us are the problem; more to the point, I think you are a bigger problem than she is. Taking her out may solve part of the problem, but that leaves us with a bigger problem: you. That is right, YOU!

While I felt outraged that she called a Comelec official during the elections and that she may have rigged the elections, I have since then taken the higher moral ground and forgiven her. Yes my dear bishops, I have done what you have told me to do since I was a child, which you say is the Christian and moral thing to do: forgive. Especially since she has asked for forgiveness and has tried to make amends for it. Erap certainly has not apologized and continues to be defiant, continuing to insult us everyday with his protestations - and he is part of your cause now! Cory has not apologized for her incompetence but we have forgiven her just the same because like GMA, she has worked hard after all. I know you do not think that GMA's apology was not enough, or that she was insincere, or that

that apology should not be the end of it, but please spare me the hypocrisy of telling me that you do so for the sake of protecting the moral fibre of society. The real reason is because you smell blood and want to go for the kill. Well, I have news for you. I do not like her too. I did not even vote for her. I voted for Raul Roco. But as much as I do not like her, I do not like you even more. I may not trust her, but you know what, I do not trust you even more. You know why I do not trust you? Because all you do is whine and sabotage this country. You belittle every little progress we make, conveniently forgetting that it is not just GMA who has been working so hard to achieve them. Every single day, we keep the faith burning in our hearts that this country will finally pull itself out of the mess and we work so hard to do that. Every little progress is the result of our collective effort, we who toil hard everyday in our jobs. Yet, you persist in one and only thing: making GMA look bad in the eyes of the world and making sure that this country continues to suffer to prove your sorry point. In the process, you continue to destroy what we painstakingly try to build. So please do not be surprised that I do not share your cause. Do not be surprised that we have become contemptuous of your antics. You have moved heaven and earth to destroy her credibility, you have convened all kinds of fora and hearings and all you have done is test our patience to the core. For all your efforts, you have only succeeded in dragging us further down. I say enough. Don't get me wrong. I am not asking that we take immorality lying down, or that we let the President get away with anything illegal. But you have tried to prove your accusations all these time and you have not succeeded, so it is time to let things be. Besides, you are doing something immoral as well if not utterly unforgivable. The Magdalo soldiers are consorting with the communists - the same people who have been trying to kill democracy for years. Cory has been consorting with Erap and the Marcoses. So please wake up and take a reality check. In the absence of true and genuine leadership, many of us have decided to cast our lot with the President, even if we do not like her. A flawed leader is better than scheming power hungry fools who cannot even stand up for their convictions in the face of an impending arrest. Your coup attempts and the denials that you have consequently made only underscore what we think is true: you are spineless and unreliable people who only want power but not the consequences and the sacrifices that go with the quest. Your one and only defense is to cry suppression when your ruse does not work. You are nothing but BULLIES who taunt and provoke, but cry oppression when taken to task for your cruelty. You call for the rule of law and respect for authority, but so brazenly display your defiance and disrespect for the same things you claim to be fighting for. I would have respected you if you took the consequences of your actions like real heroes: calmly and responsibly instead of kicking and screaming and making all kinds of lame excuses. You say you are willing to die for us, that you do all these things for the country and the Filipino, but you are not even willing to go to jail for us. Come on, you really think we believe that YOU DID NOT WANT TO BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT WHEN THAT IS THE ONE AND ONLY ONE THING THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DESPERATELY TRYING TO DO in the last many months? We love this country and we want peace and progress. Many among us do not give a f*ck who sits at Malacanang because we will work hard and do our share to make things work. We the people will and can make it work, if only you get out of the way and let us do it. If you only do your jobs, the ones you are supposed to be doing, things would be a lot simpler and easier for all of us. The events during the weekend only proved one thing: You are more dangerous and a serious threat to this country than GMA is. We have seen what you are capable of doing--you are ready to burn down this country and reduce everything to ashes just to prove your point. If there is something that we need protection from, IT IS PROTECTION FROM YOU. S.C. Austero

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INQUIRER *Mindanao*

Editor Jun Bandayrel

Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Moro reb unity good sign for peace

By Nash B. Maulana
Maguindanao

THE MORNING AFTER Dec. 23, 1976, WHEN A peace agreement between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front was signed in Tripoli, several officials were looking for Salamat Hashim, the erstwhile MNLF leader who broke off and formed the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Opposition leader Rashid Lucman called up his fellow Liberal lawmaker, Salipada Pendatun: "Sali, Where is Ustadz Salamat (Hashim)?" (Both Muslim officials were then based in Jeddah).

Pendatun answered: "That young man would rather go fishing in the Mediterranean Sea."

Hashim could either be in Tripoli, or in Alexandria, or in Damascus at the time of the signing. He refused to be part of the peace settlement with the Marcos dictatorship.

It had been eight years since Misuari and Hashim, then fresh from the secular Al-Azhar University in Egypt, trained young Muslims in Sabah, through the Malaysian connections of Lucman, Pendatun and Princess Tarhata Kiram, into what was then known as the Black Shirt Forces of the Mindanao Independence Movement (MIM). It later became the MNLF.

University of the Philippines Prof. Randy David said the organizing of the MNLF was the Moro's response of sheer militant struggle in Marcos' time to the killing of 18 young Muslim military trainees on Corregidor Island on March 18, 1968.

The victims of what is now known as "Jabidah Massacre" were to have been deployed

south for Marcos' "Oplan Maderaka" to invade Sabah in a commando-type assault.

Liberal Sen. Ninoy Aquino exposed the killings based on the Senate testimony of lone survivor Jibin Arula, a native of Jolo, Sulu.

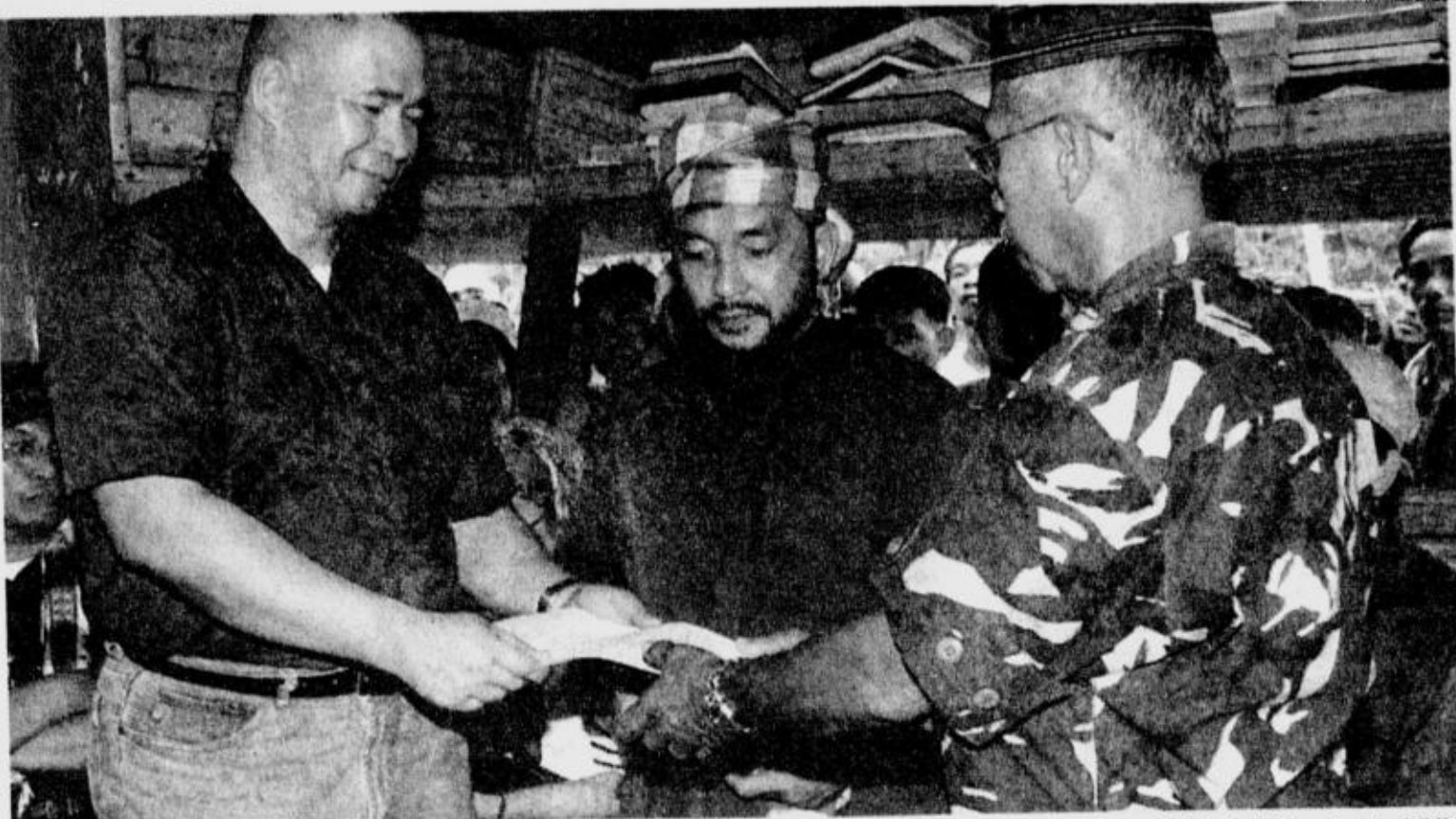
Following the 1976 agreement, then MNLF Vice Chair Hashim silently broke away from the Misuari leadership and formed the MILF.

But a split or withdrawal of support from the Misuari leadership may not be the case in the MILF history which traces the movement's roots to Hashim's involvement in multinational student activism in Al-Azhar University where he was a member of the Iqanun Muslimun (Muslim Brotherhood) founded in 1958.

Iqanun Muslimun has produced alumni of fame and notoriety—from moderate Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid to the extremist blind sheikh Abdelrahman Omar, who is currently serving a federal prison term after being sentenced for masterminding the 1993 New York World Trade bombing.

A subsequent police crackdown on IM members in Egypt sent Hashim resettling to Jeddah.

Hashim had met then senator Domciao Alonto, who had formed the moderate Ansarel Islam



PEACE prevails for now as military leaders hand over a letter from MNLF Chair Nur Misuari to Ustadz Habier Malik and Julhambri Misuari at the MNLF camp in Panamao, Jolo in January 2005. The letter asked MNLF fighters to give safe passage to Americans who were in Jolo for war games. TROY MALCOLM

(Guardians of Islam) among Muslim Filipino students in Egypt, to discuss how to continue the Moro struggle now that Misuari had signed a pact with Marcos.

But the meeting did not bear much fruit (Alonto being the principal author in Congress of the revision of the Old Civil Code that referred to the Muslim Filipinos as "Muhammedans" and "Moros" and the Tribal Community as "Pagan Tribes").

Lucman, Alonto's brother-in-law, had initially organized the Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation

Front (BILF), but associating with politicians was apparently the last thing Hashim wanted to do.

Meanwhile, toward the end of Marcos' rule, Hashim continued helping Islamic students from Mindanao earn scholarship programs in the Middle East.

Unrest

The break-up in the MNLF leadership stirred unrest in its field units. The late Amelil Malaguio (alias Commander Ronnie) told his relatives that his replacement and those of other MNLF "zone commanders" was imminent with the split. This, he said, narrowed down his option to abandon the armed struggle and join the Marcos dictatorship in 1980.

Basilan MNLF leader Abdul Gani Salapuddin (now deputy speaker of the House) was the first

to surrender in 1979 to Marcos, through then Rear Adm. Romulo Espaldon of the Western Mindanao Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

MNLF leaders Hadji Murad Ibrahim and Musanip Abdullah, alias Commander Adan, together with Commander Tanny Malaguio, Ronnie's brother, stood by Hashim and helped him organize the MILF in Mindanao.

As early as 1974, the unrest was marred by the killing of key MNLF leaders Datu Ali Basak and Datu Imam Sangki, together with Datu Ibrahim Sema, brother of now Cotabato City Mayor Muslimen Sema, in what was earlier known as separate instances of shoreline "misencounter" with other units of fellow MNLF leaders in the Moro Gulf and in the Sulu Sea.

The MNLF had accepted the killing of Sangki and Sema as martyrdom.

Second split

When Marcos learned of the

Misuari-Hashim split, the President commissioned a lawyer, who had worked for him, for a clandestine mission of sending a key MNLF leader from Lanao to Lucman to assess the former congressman's options.

In a second split, together with the lawyer, MNLF Lanao vice chair Dimas Pundato (probably unaware of Marcos' divisive scheme) organized the MNLF-Reformist Group in 1980. The MNLF-RG was the third batch of Moro revolutionaries to join the government in 1987.

From 1976 through the early 1980s, the fragile Moro revolution had been heavily influenced by a shadowy religious group called the "Big Five," the membership of which, although now long disbanded, has remained secret to this day.

The group covertly acted as policy maker and assumed judiciary functions that it utilized while exercising an open-ended range of powers.

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Resolution No. 2005-18

APPROVING THE PROVISIONAL ASSESSMENT FEES BY QUALIFICATION

WHEREAS, during the 46th TESDA Board Meeting held last 19 May 2005 TESDA Board members approved Board Resolution No. 2005-07 "The Adoption of the Guidelines in the Implementation of the Philippine TVET Qualification and Certification System;

WHEREAS, Section 7 of the Guidelines in the Implementation of the Philippine TVET Qualification and Certification Systems provides that "Assessment fees shall be based on the cost of supplies and materials as well as administrative expenses including assessor's honoraria, power and utilities, depreciation and maintenance costs. Assessment Fees shall be subject to change to allow for any possible adjustments due to costs increases;"

WHEREAS, during the 11th Finance TESDA Board-TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting which was held 14 October 2005, the cost of Assessment Fees by Qualification were deliberated and favorably recommended for consideration of the EXCOM-TESDA Board;

WHEREAS, during the 44th EXCOM-TESDA Board Meeting held 27 October 2005 the EXCOM-TESDA Board endorsed favorably the list of assessment fees by qualification for a period of six (6) months pilot implementation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves the provisional assessment fees by qualification for a period of six (6) months subject to evaluation of its pilot implementation and submission of its findings and recommendations;

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the Resolution hard and soft copies of Provisional Assessment Fees by Qualification schedule be disseminated to all concerned.

Adopted this 10th day of November 2005.

(Sgd.) MR. ELMER K. TALAVERA
Executive Director, Planning Office
Officer-In-Charge, TESDA Board Secretariat

Attested by:

(Sgd.) SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
Alternate Chair, TESDA Board
Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

(Sgd.) SECRETARY PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
Chair, TESDA Board

(PDI-March 19 & 20, 2006)



Bicol's river basin is a wide plain that straddles

The perennial flooding is a natural phenomenon dictated by the geographical configuration of the area. **Juan Escandor Jr., PD, Southern Luzon Bureau**

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Reyes cancels Bulacan marble transport permits

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ENVIRONMENT Secretary Angelo Reyes on Saturday said he ordered the cancellation of all ore transport permits (OTP) issued to a company that was mining marble at the Biak-na-Bato National Park in Bulacan.

In a phone interview, Reyes also said no new OTP would be issued to the Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp. (RMDC) until an investigation has determined the extent of destruction that the company's operations in Doña Remedios Trinidad and San Miguel towns have allegedly wrought on the environment and communities there.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources cancelled RMDC's quarry license No. 33 in 1986. The company, however, obtained Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) No. 188 over a 330-hectare area within the park from former Secretary Heherson Alvarez in 2002.

The Supreme Court upheld with finality the DENR's cancellation of RMDC's quarry license in 2004.

While the RMDC's operations remained suspended by the case in court and by intra-corporate disputes, the firm began obtaining OTPs only during the stint of Angel Bravo as regional director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Central Luzon.

Bravo's previous orders covering the RMDC's OTPs were dated Nov. 17 and Dec. 23, 2005, and Jan. 25, 2006. A March 14 permit issued by Bravo allowed the company to haul 793 cubic meters or roughly 75 truckloads of marble.

Bravo has refused interviews but earlier insisted that RMDC's MPSA was "legal."

Reyes said he ordered Jeremias Dolino, chief of the MGB's central office, to review the power of regional directors to issue OTPs.

Reyes' response came a day after

Bulacan Gov. Josefina de la Cruz accused him of "double talking."

De la Cruz said while Reyes vowed to strengthen law enforcement, Bravo gave the RMDC its fourth permit on March 14 amid protests from the provincial government and environmental advocate groups.

"I called up Governor De la Cruz to say there is no double talk, that I don't engage in double talk. I mean what I say and say what I mean," said Reyes.

He said he was "determined to see to it that our environment is protected and that the government is only allowing very, very responsible mining with no damages to the environment and communities."

Reyes vowed to work closely with local governments, saying the concerns of governors and mayors related to mining would be dealt with directly by the DENR and not solely by the MGB. **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**



DAVAO FIREPOWER

Navy soldiers in full battle gear participate in the civic and military parade during Davao City's 69th Araw ng Dabaw celebration Thursday.

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Tribal folk assert rights over Benguet land

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—INVOKING their customary rights, indigenous peoples and leaders of two towns in this province have asked the government for a wider role in deciding projects that would affect their ancestral lands.

Barangay Palina elders in Kibungan town, for one, want their mountain ranges to remain undisturbed by opposing the application of two Manila-based mining companies for mineral exploration.

Local officials of Kabayan town said they were more than willing to manage Mt. Pulag National Park by asking Malacañang to officially turn over to

them the park's administration.

The Palina elders asked the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples to look into the joint venture between the Ampusongan Copper Mining Co. (ACMC) of Quezon City and Atlas Mining of Mandaluyong City to tap potential mineral deposits in their area.

In a resolution, the elders said they were alarmed to learn about the mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) of the two companies and expressed fears that their project could come in conflict with their ancestral land claims.

ACMC and Altas signed an agree-

ment on May 25 last year to apply for mineral exploration before the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Cordillera.

The MPSA sought to explore 3,494 hectares of land in five barangays of nearby Bakun town and Barangay Palina in Kibungan.

The elders said the ACMC took over the operations of Geodata Mineral Resources which, they said, they also petitioned when it tried to get an exploration permit in the area in 2004. **Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Bet collectors prefer 'jueteng' over STL

LUCENA CITY—THE OPERATION of the Small Town Lottery here in Quezon suffered a snag after former "jueteng kubradores" and "kabos," now known as STL "sales representatives" and "sales supervisors," complained of low collections of bets.

STL bet collectors said regular jueteng patrons had been skeptical in placing bets due to the smaller chance of winning.

"With STL total numbers of 1 to 40, the chance of bagging the winning combination is small compared to jueteng with only 1 to 37 numbers. And yet, instead of giving higher prizes to the STL winner, what the PCSO gives is less than the cash pot being offered in jueteng," Susing Halili, an STL sales supervisor, said.

A P1 bet wins P70 in STL, while jueteng offers a bigger prize of P90 for every peso bet.

The 5-percent commission of the "kabo" and "kubrador" will still be deducted from the cash pot in both STL and jueteng games.

All STL employees have been issued by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office plastic laminated ID cards.

"What's the use of this plastic ID if I cannot bring home enough money for the family to survive for the day? It's much better to return to illegal jueteng, even with the possibility of police arrest, rather than stick to this legal STL. There's money in jueteng but



ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

none in STL," Halili lamented.

The former jueteng employees also complained of the cancellation by the PCSO of their traditional P25 regular transportation budget, which, according to them, they had been enjoying in illegal jueteng operation.

When reached for comment, Romy Quiñones, PCSO Special Projects Department manager, said the gripes of the STL employees had already been forwarded to the PCSO board for deliberation.

"We're listening to the grievances of the STL employees. I have already made my recommendation to the PCSO. The lottery numbers can be reduced from 40 to 38," Quiñones said in a phone interview.

He said the board would wait for the comments of the franchise holders before deciding what changes in the game's design are needed. **Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

MNLF open to amending 1996 peace agreement

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO National Liberation Front (MNLF) said it was willing to amend the 1996 peace agreement it signed with the government to accommodate a new accord that Malacañang has been working out with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"We are open to an amendment because we are supportive of the ongoing peace talks between the government and the MILF," said Hatimil Hasan, a member of the erstwhile MNLF Council of 15, said.

The Council of 15 had acted as caretaker of the MNLF after it booted out Nur Misuari from the chairmanship. The council, composed of most senior MNLF officials, later agreed to dissolve itself and hand over the MNLF chairmanship anew to Misuari. The MILF was formed in 1978

after former MNLF vice chair for religious affairs Salamat Hashim left the MNLF.

Hasan said there were also efforts to unify the MNLF and the MILF.

"Although, we signed (an) agreement in the past, the general framework for unity of both fronts, but there were no details yet regarding this unity," Hasan said.

Hasan said he believes that the MNLF and the MILF "could work together and share power with other sectors in the entity (political structure) that will be established after the signing of the peace agreement."

The peace talks between the government and the MILF would resume this month, according to MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal.

"We already received the confirmation from Malaysia," he said. **Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

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Anti-GMA group suspects hacking in glitchy website

By Fe Zamora

FOR SOME TIME BETWEEN Friday afternoon and Saturday, the blog of the Black and White Movement (BWM) seemed to be going off and on the Internet, stirring up one question: Could some people want the group critical of the administration not only off the streets but also out of cyberspace?

At least for a few hours during that period, or after the ar-

rest of former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and BWM convenor Vicente "Enteng" Romano III on Friday night, the blog <http://blackwhitemovement.blogspot.com> was off.

"We don't know if we have been hacked or what, we are still checking," Romano said in a telephone interview.

The blog was live again around 3 a.m., allowing performing artist Leah Navarro to

post an account of what happened at Baywalk and post pictures of Soliman and Romano at the police station.

Later in the morning, Navarro and Romano said they received calls the site was off again.

Freely accessed

The INQUIRER was able to visit the blog at just past noon. An hour later, the INQUIRER could not link up to the blog anymore. Then it was accessible again.

Navarro said a computer techie suspected "some infected files" might have caused the glitch. She was still worried, though. "This is the very first time (it's happened)," she told the INQUIRER.

'Flash mob'

The BWM, which is seeking the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo, maintains four internet sites, namely, <http://blackwhitemovement.blogspot.com>;

<http://www.blackwhite-movement.com/>; <http://www.blackfridayprotest.blogspot.com> and <http://blackandwhite.blogspot.com>.

The sites publish mostly statements critical of decrees on media suppression and warrantless arrests, the Hello Garci tapes, the P728-million fertilizer scam and other controversial issues surrounding the Arroyo administration.

Every Wednesday, the BMW al-

so posts instructions for 'flash mob,' quick planned protest actions launched on March 1.

The website of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), which has published transcripts of the "Hello Garci" tapes, was "defaced" twice by a hacker who left his code name, Rebarz99 on the PCIJ screen.

The alleged hacker even posted a cap of the defaced PCIJ screen on the <http://www.phack-ers.org.ph> to prove his feat.

Gonzalez: Dinky's walk in the park violated 3 laws

From page A1

three laws and was punishable by up to 12 years in jail.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno appeared to see the matter differently, saying it was not official policy to arrest promenaders wearing protest T-shirts.

Soliman's five-hour detention by the Manila police the other night was criticized by both supporters and opponents of President Macapagal-Arroyo, with Senate President Franklin Drilon denouncing it as "a complete admission that any political dissent or political activity is prohibited and would be violently suppressed by this administration."

Soliman and Vicente Romano of the Black and White Movement were detained on Friday night after they tried to march down Roxas Boulevard wearing black T-shirts embossed with the message "Patal-sikin na, now na!" (Out now!).

The message did not say whom the group wanted out.

In a telephone interview, Gonzalez said his former Cabinet colleague violated the Illegal Assembly Law, Batas Pambansa 880 (which regulates the time and place where rallies are to be held), and the Local Government Code which empowers local officials to approve or disapprove applications for rallies.

Of all the laws Soliman allegedly broke, Gonzalez said the most "serious" was the one on illegal assembly because it could put her behind bars for up to 12 years.

Freedom's limits

"She's liable to spend time from eight to 12 years," Gonzalez said.

He said Soliman's detention should make all Filipinos realize that all freedoms had limitations.

"You have a right to disrobe in your bathroom or your house, but not in a town plaza or a church," he said.

Gonzalez said he supported the decision of the police to detain Soliman and the others, claiming they were clearly staging a rally with their distinctive shirts and thumbs-down signs while walking along Roxas.

"We are ready to go after those violating the illegal assembly act, like Dinky, as seriously as we are going after those charged with rebellion, like (former Sen. Gregorio) 'Gringo' Honasan," he said.

Told that many people now felt the government was out to strip them of their right to assemble, Gonzalez said: "There are several laws that restrict the freedom to assembly. They should just follow the law so that nothing bad will happen to them."

Uncovered

Soliman, who has been campaigning for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation since she



SOLIMAN: I'll not stop strolling to express my opinion.

and nine other key members of the Cabinet quit her administration last year, was uncowed.

"This would not stop me from expressing my opinion. We will continue to exact accountability from this government, as we have been doing since July 8, until this political crisis is resolved," Soliman told the INQUIRER.

Martial law years

Former President Corazon Aquino was among those who went to see Soliman and Romano at Western Police headquarters.

Aquino said she was surprised by the police action and recalled that even during the martial law rule of Ferdinand Marcos, she and her supporters took part in protest marches but were not detained.

With the approval of prosecutor Nelson Salva, assistant prosecutor Glenda Ramos ordered the release of Soliman and Romano pending further investigation of the incident.

Outside Manila City Hall, where the inquest was held, members of BWM lit candles which they had arranged to form the word "FREE."

No charges yet

Aquino had volunteered to take Soliman under her custody but the city prosecutor said that this was not necessary.

Lawyer Marlon Manuel said that as of now, there were still no charges against his client.

MPD General Assignments Section chief Supt. Arturo Paglinawan earlier said: "They had no permit... If they were just out for a stroll at Baywalk why would they wear [similar] T-shirts? It's common sense."

Soliman and Romano were apprehended as they and about 50 other BWM members were about to cross Roxas Boulevard to Baywalk. Soliman said they were not carrying any placards or posters.

Flash mob concept

"(We have) the right to wear T-shirts. This is worse than martial law," Soliman said.

"We will continue with our silent protest. It is within the Constitution that we have the right to expression and the right to peaceably assemble."

Patterned after the flash mob concept, the so-called "Black Friday Protest" calls on people to gather at a designated time and place every Friday while wearing black as a symbol of protest. There will be no programs or speeches. Instead, people will be given specific instructions on what to do and the whole exercise should last about 30 minutes.

Secretary Puno said the arrest of Soliman and Romano was a "tactical decision" on the part of the police.

"I don't know the details. You might want to ask MPD director Pedro Bulaong. It was a tactical decision, not a policy," Puno said.

Just ignore them

Even administration congressmen said there was nothing criminal about what the Soliman group did.

Both Eastern Samar Rep.

Marcelino Libanan and Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan said the police should have just ignored them because there was no clear violation of the law.

"Anyone can wear a shirt that says, 'I hate Dinky's hair accessory' and get away with it," Libanan said.

Bro. Eddie Villanueva, head of the 3-million strong Jesus is Lord Movement, said the arrests "clearly showed how the administration has been using the police in repressing the rights of patriotic and freedom-loving Filipinos."

"May we remind the police and the military that the state is not the President. Their constitutional mandate is to protect the State and not the President," he said.

Clinging to office

Drilon condemned the arrests and said the incident showed that "the Arroyo administration has totally stripped itself of legitimacy."

"By causing the arrest of Baywalk strollers, Gloria becomes

more repressive by the hour as she clings to office. For her and the nation's good, she should now resign," Senate Minority

Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said. With reports from Jerome An- ing, Norman Bordadora and Philip C. Tubeza

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P. S. Biscocho; 79

PROCESO S. BISCOCHO of Tanauan, Batangas, and San Lorenzo, California, died on March 3 at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife Raquel, children Celso, Alfredo, Edgardo, Anita and Elisa, and grandchildren.

The wake will be held at Mt. Carmel Church in Quezon City today and tomorrow. Interment will be on Tuesday at Himlayang Pilipino in Tanauan. Mass will be offered at the Tanauan church at 1 p.m. prior to the interment.

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This section is dedicated to the Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

I cried the day I became daughter of an OFW

By Tarra V. Quismundo

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT ONE DAY, I would be among the many teary-eyed Filipino children all waving goodbye to their fathers at the airport.

But on the night of Jan. 15, 1998, I became one of them, among the millions of teenagers left behind by their parents in search of greener pastures abroad. I sobbed their sorrow, cried out their pain, and felt ambivalent over the sadness of losing a loved one for the meantime and the excitement of awaiting his return.

That night, I became a daughter of another Overseas Filipino Worker, another head of a Fil-

ipino home forced to leave his motherland so that his family could lead a decent life.

For there was just no other way for my father Edwin, a musician whose earnings depended on the number of tourists coming to the scenic Pagsanjan town in Laguna, but leave.

Around 11 p.m. that night, my father, then 42, boarded an airplane for the first time in his life. He was bound for the resort island of Saipan, a United States' territory in the Pacific, the Northern Marianas Islands. He had found a job as a member of an all-Filipino trio of performers hired to regularly entertain guests in a Saipan hotel.

I was 15 then, a junior in high school in Lagu-

'If you make it to UP, I'll go home at once. Otherwise, I will stay longer'

na hoping to graduate the following school year and go to college in the school of my dreams—the University of the Philippines in Diliman. My younger brother Bon, then seven, was going to enter elementary school that June.

Going to UP

"If you make it to UP, I will go home at once. Otherwise, I will stay there four to five years more," my father told me, trying to make a joke out of the burdensome college tuition.

He believed if I failed entrance into UP, where tuition was subsidized and hence more affordable, I would have to enroll in a private univer-

sity, but that would cost us more. And it was simply impossible for my parents to support me through four years in college if he would not brave a life away from home.

He believed in me so much that he decided to spend more than a year of his life away from our family to make my own dreams come true.

In my tourism-dependent hometown, a place where livelihood was as seasonal as the fluctuating arrivals of foreign and local visitors, tourists who used to pour in by the busloads were, at that time, only trickling in aboard coasters, vans, and buses half-full.

My town, with the rest of the nation, was aching from the Asian financial crisis, a regional economic slump that saw faltering currencies and the weakening buying power of people across all walks of life.

Working harder

For my father, the crisis simply meant working harder to earn more.

So it was for my mother Teresa, a seamstress with equally unstable earnings. As her clients belt-tightened, ready-made imports in local dry-goods stalls were more practical to purchase. Customers would visit her modest dress shop only during special occasions, when it was all right, if not necessary, to spend precious cash on custom-made garments.

And for parents getting ready to send their eldest daughter to college, a decision had to be made. By the end of 1997, his plan to leave for abroad was final.

"Please take good care of my kids," I remember my father telling our neighbors before boarding a rented van, struggling to smile, his jolly tone forced.

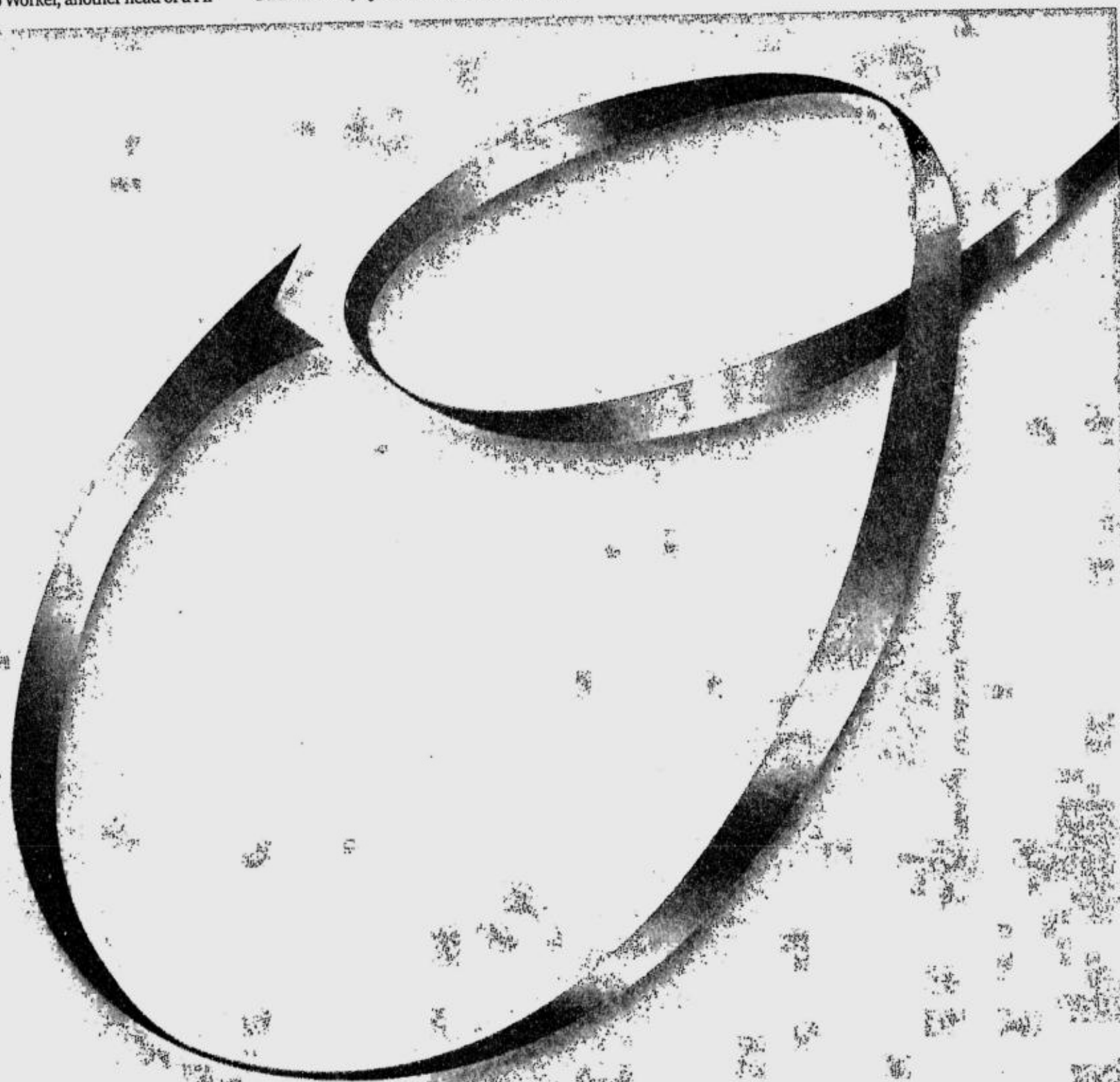
That Thursday eight years ago, I had to skip school to join the family's send-off for my father. After a final family lunch, we boarded his luggage onto the van that would take us straight to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. He had to be at the departure area by 8 p.m.

The next two and a half hours was longer than it actually was as I pondered how everyday life would be like without my father: only three plates on the table, no one to give me guitar lessons, no one to criticize my English essays and suggest ideas for composition projects.

Saying goodbye

But I felt I had to be strong. For I knew, despite his heavy heart, my father wanted to do this for us, for me. As I looked at my father holding my mother's hands, I was confident he was

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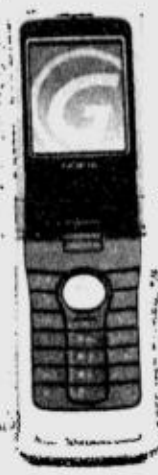
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How to pack love, care and Spam in a box

By Kate Pedrosa
PDI Research

LEAVE NO SPACE UNFILLED.

This is the fundamental rule in packing a balikbayan box.

The box has become standard OFW accessory. As the joke goes, you know you're Pinoy when your other piece of luggage is a balikbayan box.

The cardboard packing case usually contains mostly food items, clothes and toys, *pasalubong* for parents, children and other relatives.

Standard items

Joy, 22, says their family receives every year three to five balikbayan boxes around November and December from her sister Anna, who has been working as a nurse in the United States since 2002.

The box, which usually takes a month to reach their doorstep in Quezon City via cargo ship, contains clothes, canned goods like Spam and Libby's corned beef, and toiletries like Mane and Tail shampoo bottles and Irish Spring soap bars.

"There are also toys like cars and dolls, coloring books and crayons for nieces and nephews," she adds. "And, of course, towels. A balikbayan box is never without towels."

Thirty-year-old Tsai agrees. She says she now has a cabinet full of towels and blankets, thanks

HOW TO/A24

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Just doing the right thing

By Nancy C. Carvajal

IF YOU FOUND A BAG CONTAINING OVER A million pesos in cash and checks, would you return it to the owner?

Charlito Plaza, a barangay tanod (watchman) in Navotas, did. The 49-year-old father of five was not even tempted by the thought of how much more comfortable his family's life would be if he were to keep the money.

"Returning things which are not mine are in

all in a day's work for me," Plaza said in Filipino.

The money turned out to have been stolen by two men from a fish vendor in Navotas. Plaza not only recovered the money taken from the victim, he also helped arrest one of the suspects.

"I was riding my pedicab when I saw a man running toward me, carrying a bag. People were chasing him, saying he was a thief. I blocked his path with my pedicab, punched him and he fell," Plaza told the INQUIRER.

For his bravery and honesty, the burly tanod

was chosen by the Rotary Club of Navotas as last year's Most Outstanding Barangay Tanod. He also received a plaque of appreciation from Philippine National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao while Navotas Mayor Toby Tiango gave him a cash gift and another plaque.

"I never expected to be rewarded because as far as I know, I was just doing my job as a barangay official," Plaza said.



CHARLITO Plaza with some of the citations he had received for his honesty and bravery.

RANDY HORMILOSA

WHAT'S INSIDE

'I was not
Umale's
only enemy'
— Chavit
Singson

/A23



A home away from
home for Manila's lolos
and lolas

/A22

IT course turns women into computer pros

By Tina G. Santos

FROM COMPUTER-ILLITERATE TO COMPUTER-SAVVY.

Many housewives in Sta. Mesa, Manila, still remember the time when they did not even know how to insert a diskette into the computer.

But after completing a computer literacy course, they now wear confident smiles as they sit in front of a computer, punching keys and executing commands like pros.

The women were among the beneficiaries of a program initiated by Councilor Dennis Lacuna of the city's sixth district.

Recognizing the importance of computer skills to gain employment, Lacuna put up a computer center in Bacood, Sta. Mesa, to teach residents about information technology systems.

"The project is especially significant in this information-driven age where technological know-how is almost always not just a preference, but a requirement," the councilor said.

He added that since offering the program early this month, the center has been deluged by students.

The councilor said he was surprised to find out that many of those who had registered, aside from teenagers and out-of-school youth, were adults, mostly working parents between 30 and 40 years old.

"These are people who did not have any computer classes when they were still in school," he said.

The computer center has 14 brand-new computers and uses the syllabus of the Informatics computer school. The center offers basic and advanced computer courses, including training in applications such as word processor Microsoft Word; virtual drawing tool Paint; the spreadsheet calculation program Excel; and office presentation maker, PowerPoint.

Students are also taught how to use the Internet.

The computer course takes 45 days, with students attending one-hour classes from Monday to Friday. Six classes are held daily. There are currently 70 students enrolled.

Lacuna said they intend to add more classes to accommodate more residents.

He is also considering giving free computer lessons to barangay officials in the area as well as members of the Manila Police District, specifically those assigned at the Sta. Mesa police station.

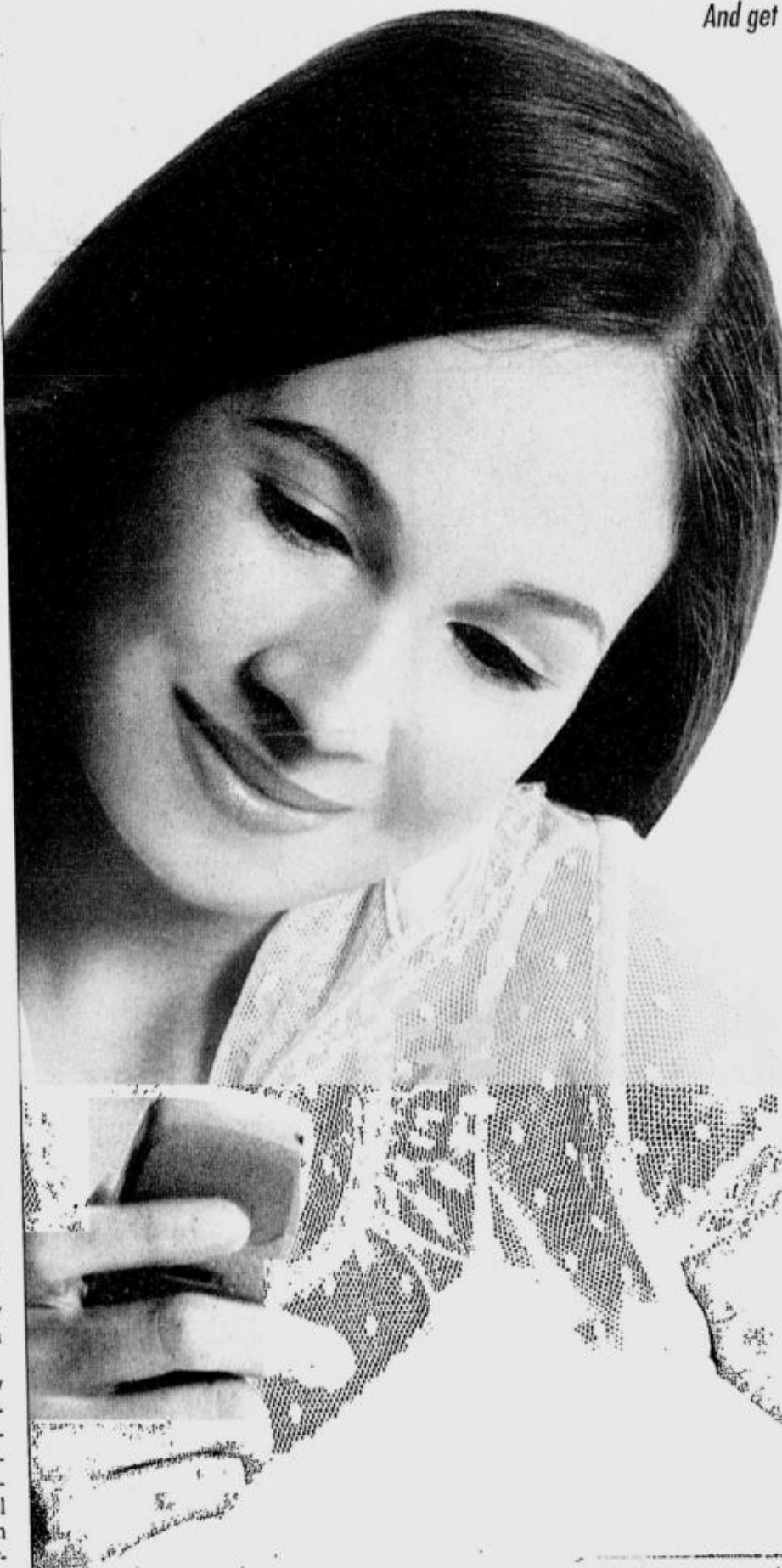
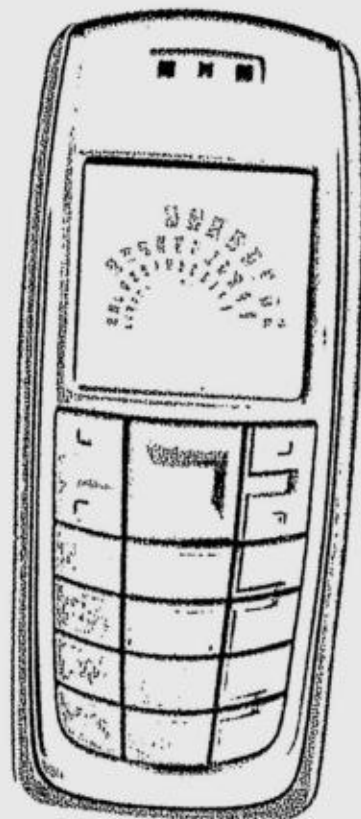
Lacuna, who believes that computer literacy gives one an option and an edge, said that the new acquired skills would hopefully help improve the lives of his constituents.

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New life, new home for Manila's elderly

By Tina G. Santos

GROWING OLD ALONE NEED not be a difficult and lonely journey, as many senior citizens in Manila have found out.

At 76, Hipolita Bilo or Lola Lita of San Andres, has found a way to keep her mind off her problems and earn just enough to help her live independently.

"Masarap at maganda pa rin ang buhay. Pero nakahanda ako anumang oras na sunduin na ako ng Maylikha (Life is still good and beautiful. But I don't dread the thought of dying)," said Lola Lita.

Her sentiments have rubbed off on a relatively big number of the city's elderly residents, too.

The source of their newfound strength and optimism is a 30-year-old organization that has helped ease their concerns about life in their twilight years.

The group is called the Mahal Ko si Lolo, Mahal Ko si Lola (MKLL) Foundation, which has members from Manila's sixth district.

Established by Mayor Lito Atienza in 1976 when he was still a barangay chair, the foundation now has more than 10,000 members, and is still growing.

A trip to the United States, where Atienza witnessed how the government looked after the welfare of its elderly citizens, gave him the idea for putting up the MKLL.

"As Filipinos, it has been part of our culture to respect and care for the elderly. I want to ensure that they are able to fully enjoy the remaining years of their lives and be as productive as they can be," Atienza said. With this in mind, the mayor also established in 2001 a social and recreation center for the elderly on Union corner Sagat Streets in Paco.

The MKLL Senior Recreation Center, more popularly known as "Bahay Kalinga," has an exercise area, a social hall, a library, an audio-visual room, a clinic and other facilities for senior citizens.

Commitment

"This is part of our continuing commitment to promote the welfare and wellbeing of the city's senior citizens. This center provides the elderly with the opportunity for recreation and interaction so



they would continue to be active and productive even during their golden years," said Atienza.

The center is also where Lola Lita spends most of her time everyday, crocheting doilies and mingling with her fellow seniors.

"I am happiest when I am here with my friends like Auring," she said in Filipino, referring to Aurelia Garcia, a 62-year-old widow who keeps herself busy by sewing.

Lola Lita added that rather than stay home by herself during the day—her five children go to work while her grandchildren are in school—she goes to Bahay Kalinga everyday.

"I just go home to be with my family after the center closes at 5 p.m. Here at the center, I have many friends to talk to. I don't feel lonely," she told the INQUIRER while making a coaster out of recycled plastic bags.

Not as lucky

But not all senior citizens at the center are as lucky as Lola Lita who has a family to come home to at the end of the day.

Lola Auring sleeps on a sidewalk at night because her house was demolished a few years ago. She said her children, who all have families of their own, did not want to take her in. "I don't want to be a burden, they have their own problems to deal with," she added.

Lola Auring shares the same fate with Milagros Co or Lola Mila, 69, who was also abandoned by her five children. Lola Mila

practically spends the whole afternoon at the center, watching television or playing games. In the morning, she sells cigarettes

or distributes newspapers to earn money for her needs. At night, she sleeps at the foot of the stairs of a boarding house in Pedro Gil.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the Resellership Agreement of:

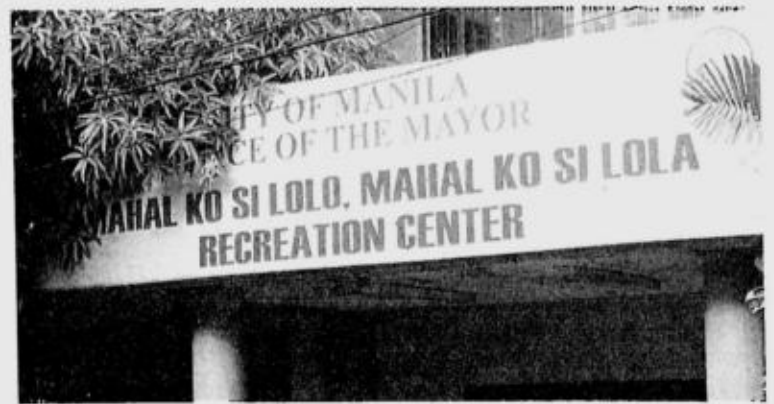
Mr. Angel Valdez, Jr.

(doing business under the trade name: **Marcplus Enterprise** and whose pictures appears below) with Adtel, Inc. was no longer renewed and lapsed on December 31, 2005. As such, any and all transactions, promotions, and activities performed by **Mr. Valdez/Marcplus Enterprise** and his representatives, purportedly on behalf of Adtel, Inc. involving the Baron Super Antenna and other variants thereof, are not authorized by Adtel, Inc.

The public is advised to report to Adtel, Inc. any such unauthorized transactions, promotions and activities at Tel. No. 435-1801



(PDI - March 19, 2006)



BAHAY Kalinga, the center for the City of Manila's elderly citizens in Paco which one described "as my home" and the other residents (left photo) as "my family."

RODEL ROTONI

"This center is now my home and they're my family," she said, referring to fellows. "I feel safe here," she said. "When we meet, we always feel happy. We feel young again."

According to Cora Lazaro, secretary and coordinator of Bahay Kalinga, the center offers

several activities aimed at improving the life of the elderly. "Instead of seeing them waste away, we encourage them to socialize through ballroom dancing, parlor games and civic action work," said Lazaro. "But above all, we make them feel important."

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BAGUIO
Governor Pack Road, 2600 Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-3888

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Baguio, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF CSS BUILDING
Location	UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BAGUIO CAMPUS
Brief Description	Construction of a three-story CSS Building
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 27,000,000.00
Contract Duration	300 calendar days

Prospective bidders (of at least Medium A category) should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility / Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 21 - April 7, 2006
2. Last day for the receipt of Letter of Intent (LOI) Receipt and Opening of Eligibility Requirements (Eligibility Requirements must be received not later than 8:30 AM at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration; Opening of Eligibility requirements at 9:00 AM at the Chancellor's Conference Room; Eligibility check for civil works; Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	April 10, 2006
3. Issuance of Bid Documents/ Preparation of Bids	April 11 - 30, 2006
4. Pre-bid Conference (9:00 am at the Chancellor's Conference Room)	April 20, 2006
5. Receipt and Opening of Bids (Bids must be received not later than 8:30 AM at the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration; Opening of bids at 9:00 AM at the Chancellor's Conference Room)	May 2, 2006
6. Bid Evaluation	May 2 - 5, 2006
7. Post-qualification	May 6 - 12, 2006
8. Notice of Award	May 15, 2006
9. Notice to Proceed	May 31, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Supply & Property Management Office c/o Mr. Rogelio S. Movilla, Jr., upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P 500.00) to the University of the Philippines Baguio Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) to the University of the Philippines Baguio Cashier.

The University of the Philippines Baguio assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. The UP Baguio reserves the right to reject any of all bids without giving any reason, waive any required formally and award the contract to the bidder whose Proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the University.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) BIENVENIDO C. MARZAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI - March 19 & 26, 2006)

Seniors' card: Perks and privileges

By Prosy B. Montesines
Contributor

ACCORDING TO THE 2000 CENSUS OF POPULATION and Housing, senior citizens (60 years old and over) in the country number about 4.7 million, comprising about six per cent of the population. Of that figure, about 468,876 reside in the National Capital Region.

A plus side to growing older is that one can enjoy a lot of perks and privileges with a senior citizen's national identification card. The card entitles Filipinos 60 years and above to discounts on several products and services under Republic Act 9257 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003.

These include a 20 percent on medicine and medical services; restaurants, hotels and other lodging establishments; recreational, leisure and amusement centers; all means of local public transportation; moviehouses, theaters and concert halls. The card also entitles the holder to a five percent discount on the regular retail prices of basic necessities and prime commodities.

Easy steps

To get an ID, applicants should visit the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) in their city or municipality and fill up an application form. They will be required to present an ID photo as well as any of the following documents: birth certificate, community residence certificate, voter's ID, driver's license, GSIS or SSS ID, as proof of age. Local governments, however, have the option to extend the benefits for the elderly according to their discretion and income.

Makati's senior citizens, for instance, get to watch movies for free, take free trips and receive a free cake on their birthday and wedding anniversary.

In Quezon City, at least 200 of the city's senior citizens are now employed by the city government as volunteers for outreach, livelihood and educational programs.

A similar program is also being implemented in Marikina City. The new city code also orders business establishments to provide express lanes and special counters to senior citizens.

Similar lanes were also proposed in a newly approved ordinance in Caloocan City. With Tarra V. Quismundo, DJ Yap, Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Tina G. Santos and Nancy C. Carvajal

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF REMOTE FIBER OPTIC CABLE MONITORING SYSTEM

Reference No.: PB060228-RM0026 / PR No. TTSD-06-000015687

- The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of P1P 5,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Remote Fiber Optic Cable Monitoring System. Delivery of the GOODS is required in sixty (60) days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
- The TRANSCO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Remote Fiber Optic Cable Monitoring System. Delivery of the GOODS is required in sixty (60) days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below from March 20, 2006 to April 17, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of P1P 1,000.00. The method of payment will be Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- Site inspection is required prior to the Pre-Bid Conference, for details please contact Mr. Lyndon S. Velasco at Telephone No. 981-4454.
- The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 29, 2006 / 10:00 AM at the Admin Conference Room.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before April 18, 2006 / 10:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	PhP 50,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	PhP 75,000.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	PhP 125,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	PhP 5,000,000.00

- Bid opening shall be on April 18, 2006 / 10:00 AM at the Admin Conference Room same address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
- The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center Complex, BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812206 / Fax No. (632) 9229432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - March 19, 2006)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 02-06-2006

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Supply & Delivery of various CCTV Equipment

Brief Description :

LOT	QTY	TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET/UNIT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1a	36	Time and Date Titrer Modules, PCB V1300X TDT Must be compatible to the existing Vicon matrix system	20,300.00	730,800.00
1b	6	Video Switch Video Switch PCB, VICON V6610S Must be compatible to the existing Vicon matrix system	83,000.00	498,000.00
2	20	PTZ CAMERA Indoor 1/4" CCD, Color Dome Camera, NTSC Format, 470 TVL High Resolution or better, Maximum black and white illumination of 0.05 lux and minimum illumination of 0.01 lux for picture. Variable Focal 4-88MM) or better, 22X Optical Zoom and 8x Digital Zoom or better, Auto Iris, Auto Manual Shutter Speed, Variable Speed Pan/Tilt, 360 Degrees Continuous Rotation, Programmable Presets, AGC & BLC, Ceiling and Pendant Mount Enclosure, Tinted Gold Dome (Lower) 7" or lower, Adaptable 220 VAC/60Hz Input Power, Indoor type Must be compatible to the existing Vicon system	117,480.00	2,349,600.00
3	63	CCTV MONITOR (10" COLOR) 700 TVL Minimum, Color and 10", High Resolution, NTSC, 2 Channel (S) Video In/Out Terminating, Universal Input Power, Metal Casing, 220 VAC, 60Hz	23,000.00	1,449,000.00
4	30	HIGH-END FIXED CAMERA 1/3" CCD, Color Dome Camera, 470 TVL High Resolution or better, Maximum Color illumination of 1.5 lux or lower, Manual Iris, Variable Focal (3.5-8MM) or better with manual focus, AGC & BLC, Ceiling Mount Tinted Gold Dome (Lower) 7" or lower, Adaptable 220 VAC/60Hz Input Power.	30,000.00	900,000.00
5	7	VIDEO DISTRIBUTION AMPLIFIER 16 Video Input x 64 Video Output, Input Voltage-12 VAC/15VDC Adaptable to 110 to 220 VAC, 60Hz, Video Input/Output Impedance: 75 Ohms, 16MHz Bandwidth, Video Input: 1.5 VPP, Video Output: 1.5 VPP, Rack Mount, Standard Dimension: 3.5"x1.5"x19", High End	40,000.00	280,000.00
6	22	QUAD MULTIFLEXER (DUPEX) 4 Video Input 1 VPP/75 Ohms with looping Output, 1 Main Monitor Output, 1 Call Monitor Output, 1 Video VCR Output 1 VPP/75 Ohms, High Resolution 720x480 fixed or Higher, 60 FPS, Programmable Switching Mode, RS232 Control Signal, NTSC, 120-220 VAC, 60Hz Input Power	15,000.00	330,000.00
7	3	TIME AND DATE TITLER GENERATOR (STAND ALONE TYPE) Stand Alone type Time and Date Titrer Generator, 16 Camera Input, 16 Output, RS 422 Serial Input/Output Port for receiving GPS time and Date information, configurable in a Master/Slave Connection using either Daisy Chain or Home-run connection, Autovolt. 120-220 VAC, 60 Hz Input Power, High end	96,000.00	288,000.00
			TOTAL AMOUNT	6,825,400.00

Approved Budget Source of Fund : Six Million Eight Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Four Hundred & 00/100 Pesos (PhP 6,825,400.00) Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR). The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 17, 2006 - April 10, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	March 28, 2006 (2pm)
3. Submission of Bids	April 11, 2006 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	April 11, 2006 (2 pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Flr. PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Four Hundred Twelve & 70/100 Pesos (PhP 3,412.70). In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO
Chairman, BAC 3
(PDI-March 19 & 26, 2006)

Chavit lists Umale 'enemies'; victim's wife has witness

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ILOCOS SUR GOV. LUIS "CHAVIT" SINGSON yesterday listed nine cases that had allegedly been filed against slain businessman Leonardo Umale which could have earned him enemies.

"I know I should not be saying this because Umale is dead. But in the interest of truth, it must be told that Umale had many enemies as evidenced by the many cases filed against him," Singson said a statement faxed to the INQUIRER.

According to Singson, some of the cases involved Umale's alleged nonpayment of some contractors and reported quarrels with some friends, a fellow businessman, a beautician, an actor and a group of informal settlers.

He also maintained that he was "an ally and not an enemy" of Umale.

Clarissa, the wife of Umale who was shot dead on Thursday morning by four men, had said her husband had no enemies except Singson. The family also offered a P10-million reward for any information on the four gunmen and their mastermind.

Clarissa told the INQUIRER yesterday that they had a witness who could identify the mastermind. But she did not give additional details because she said she wanted to avoid compromising the witness' safety.

Willing to help

"I don't know if Umale ever mentioned these nine cases to Mrs. Umale," Singson added in his statement. "If he did not, maybe it's time she knew about them. I repeat that I am willing to help in any impartial investigation of the killing of Umale," he said.

"His life revolved around his family," Clarissa told the INQUIRER yesterday, as she glanced at a collage of her husband's pictures. Beside it was an urn containing the businessman's ashes placed on top of an altar.

Gathering strength from an outpour of support from friends who streamed into their posh home in a Pasig City subdivision, Clarissa vowed to seek justice for her husband.

The family had earlier tagged Singson as the one behind the murder, an allegation Singson had quickly denied.

Absolved

Clarissa also absolved Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares of any liability in her husband's death, saying Singson was just trying to confuse investigators. Umale and Ynares had figured in a dispute last year over parking space on Pearl Drive in Pasig City.

"That was more than a year ago. They have become good friends after that," family lawyer Agnes Maranan said.

There had been court cases filed by Umale and other businessmen against Singson's associates which are slowly being resolved, some turning out to be "favorable" to Umale, she added. Maranan said a recent example was a Court of Appeals order regarding a stockholders dispute over the restaurant strip Metro Walk on Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

The strip is under a corporation reportedly composed of Singson's colleagues. Umale had invested "tens of millions" in the restaurant but had not gotten any return for his investment, Maranan added.

Court decision

Though not a party to the case, Umale stood to benefit from the decision, which would allow him to reclaim his Metro Walk, Maranan explained, without discussing the merits of the case. The decision reportedly came out exactly two weeks before Umale was assassinated on Thursday.

Clarissa said her husband had been receiving threats to his life even months before his murder in the form of anonymous text messages and warnings from common friends.

"I always told him to be careful," she said.

Clarissa described her husband as a playful father to one daughter and two sons, who would pose for pictures with his grand-

children wearing a girl's headband. "He would go biking with the boys and played badminton with the girls," she added.

"He would always call our daughter just to ask if she had lunch, or if she needed a ride. Our daughter will miss him so much," Clarissa added.

She said that many family friends had not only expressed their support but had even provided her family with watchmen.

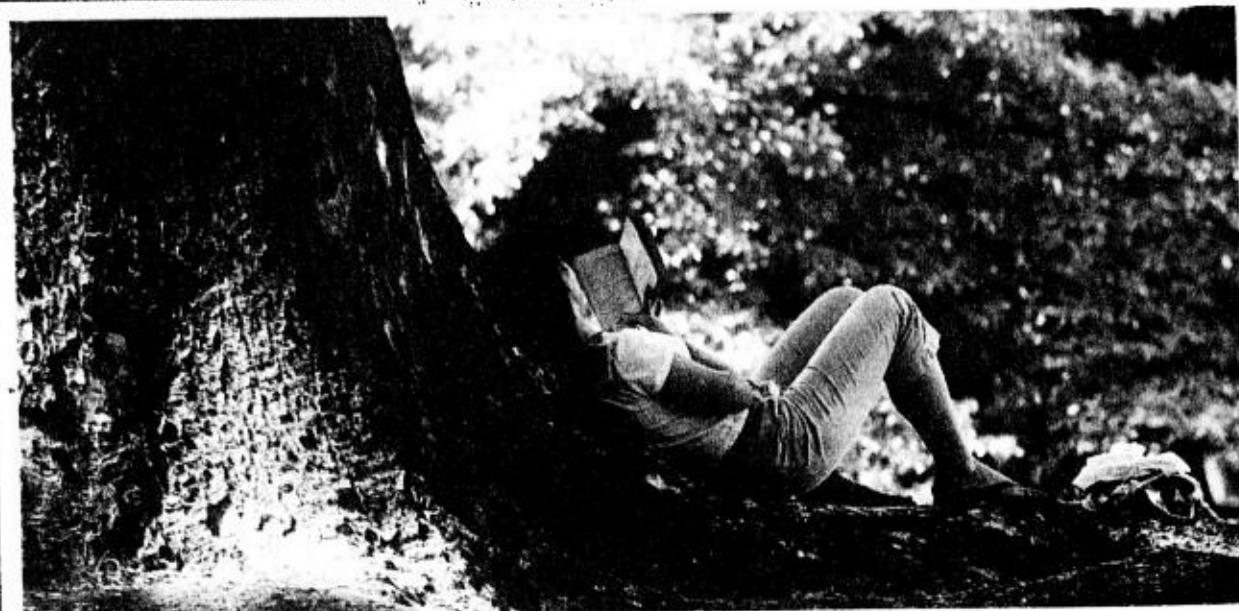
Some policemen at the Eastern Police District said Umale had indeed figured in some petty squabbles in the past.

They said Umale had lodged complaints against several people, and was himself the subject of several police blotter reports.

But for his wife, Umale was a "generous and giving" friend.

"He was a best friend to many people. He would give his life for a best friend," Clarissa said.

"But he can be your worst enemy. *Ayaw niya na niloloko siya*," (He did not want people to make a fool out of him) she added.



EXAMS WEEK

A student finds the perfect spot to review for upcoming tests at the UP Sunken Garden in Diliman, Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

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Just doing ...

From page A21

Still, he added, it was nice to be recognized for what he had done. The experience has also made him more determined to "perform better in everything I do."

Plaza has been a *tanod* at the Navotas Bay Boulevard North since 1995. An elementary school graduate, he moonlights as a *pedicab* driver for which he earns an additional P250 to P300 a day.

Barangay chair Vic Palicpic told the INQUIRER that Plaza "is one of our trusted and dedicated *tanod*. We are lucky to have him with us."

"Charlito could have easily run away with the money and it would not have been noticed because of all the commotion," Palicpic added.

As a child, Plaza said he was taught by his parents not to keep things "which are not ours." He added that the incident in Navotas was not the first time he returned something he had found. It was the first time, however, that he was cited for his honesty.

"I left Surigao del Sur with my heart and mind full of dreams and aspirations and somehow, I have not failed," Plaza said.

He pointed out, however, that with or without a reward, he will continue to do what is right and to help other people in "whatever way I could."

E-mail: pr_global_pino@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer news name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)GLOBAL *Pino*

Editor Gerry Lirio

This section is dedicated to the Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

SISTERS ACT

Behind top PMA grad are 3 OFWs

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SANTO DOMINGO, ILOCOS SUR—ZITA TOLEdo Torres is bursting with pride knowing that her younger brother, Ariel Toledo, will lead this year's 324 graduates of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

Torres, 40, knows she is a big factor in Ariel's success. She and two other sisters worked as domestic helpers abroad so that Ariel and their other siblings could continue studying after their parents died several years back.

"[Providing for their education] was the main reason we left the country to work abroad. [We wanted] to help my younger sisters and brothers finish their studies," Torres told the

INQUIRER on Friday.

Ariel ranked first among 324 graduates of the Mandala (from "Mandirigmang Dangal ng Lahi" or Honorable Warrior of the Race) Class. It is not only the biggest class in the PMA's 108-year history but also has the most number of magna cum laude (11) and cum laude (37) graduates.

11 children

The Toledos' parents—Providencio, a member of the defunct

Integrated National Police who died in 1992; and Pilar, a housewife, who died in 2001—left a brood of 11, five boys and six girls.

Torres, the second child, said she herself did not graduate from college, finishing only three semesters of her education course, because their parents could not afford to send them all to school.

She realized her younger siblings would not be able to continue their studies if they all remained in the country. The only way she and her other sisters could help them was to work abroad.

The first sister to go abroad was the third child, Ely, who left in 1989. Torres followed her in Hong Kong in 1991. Eldest sister Beatriz joined them in 1994.

Torres worked as a maid in Hong Kong from 1991 to 2001, saving money for her siblings' needs. Now a mother of three, she has settled in Santa Lucia, also in Ilocos Sur, with her family.

Torres said Beatriz was luckiest of her siblings because she finished an accountancy course. Ely, on the other hand, completed a year in nursing but married early.

Torres said Ely, now 38, went to Hong Kong with the help of her husband's sister-in-law who was working there in 1989.

Both Ely and Beatriz are now working in Canada.

All income sent home

Still single when she went to Hong Kong, Torres said she gave practically all her earnings to her siblings back home.

"I only had my allowance [after pay day]. All my earnings were sent home," she said.

Torres, Ely and Beatriz pooled their earnings to ensure that their siblings would finish school.

Their late brother, Providencio Jr., topped his civil engineering class at the University of Northern Philippines (UNP).



WOMEN POWER. Sisters Zita Torres, Beatriz Castro and Ely Fejdier took a break from work overseas in 1995 to visit their hometown and check on their brothers whom they were sending to school.

The sisters also helped their brothers Marlow, now a geodetic engineer in Metro Manila; and Domingo, a civil engineering graduate working in a mall in Bantay town.

A sister, May, went to a nursing school but left the country and is now based in Chicago, Illinois, with her husband. Another sister, Emma, is now working in Taiwan, also as a maid.

Ariel was in his fifth year in geodetic engineering at UNP when he entered the PMA.

The Toledo sisters' earnings are also supporting their brother

Michael, a graduating architecture student at UNP; and youngest sibling Mary Grace, who finished a midwifery course.

"We could not have continued with our studies without our elder sisters going abroad to help us," Domingo told the INQUIRER.

Can't attend graduation

Torres said helping her siblings finish school entailed a personal sacrifice as she failed to save enough money for her personal needs.

It was only in 1999, at 34, when she got married, that she

started saving for her own family. "I have little money saved for my family," Torres said.

Torres said her sisters Beatriz, May and Emma would not be able to see Ariel graduate at the top of the PMA Mandala Class of 2006 on March 25 in Baguio City.

She said her sisters could not come home but would send the money that otherwise would have gone to their air fares for Ariel's graduation party.

But Torres will make sure that she is there to witness Ariel receive his awards from President Macapagal-Arroyo.



FAMILY'S PRIDE. Ariel with elder sisters Emma Castillo (left) and May Rabanal and their children in Baguio in 2002

Witness says diplomat raped Filipina in 1990

By Nikko Dizon

FOR NEARLY A YEAR NOW, A FORMER Filipino domestic worker has been waging a silent battle for justice against a Norwegian diplomat she accused of raping her 16 years ago in Iraq.

The woman found an ally recently in another Filipino worker who gave her testimony to Norwegian authorities as a prosecution witness.

In an interview with the INQUIRER two weeks ago, the witness said she gave her deposition to the investigators through a three-and-a-half-hour teleconference on March 3 at the Norwegian Embassy in Makati City.

The INQUIRER is withholding the names of both victim and witness to protect their privacy.

"It was a grueling interview, with the investigators asking me one question at least seven times," said the witness, a 44-year-old mother of three.

Despite the anxiety caused by being involved in a sensitive case, the witness said she was "happy" to be able to help another Filipino.

"I'm happy to be of help to her. I also want her to find justice," the witness said.

Meeting Virginia

Since coming home to the Philippines last year, the witness has yet to meet again "Virginia," the Filipino worker allegedly raped by a Norwegian diplomat in his Baghdad home in 1990 at the height of the Gulf War.

The two women got to know each other when, along with 28 other Filipino workers, they escaped from Kuwait when the war began and headed for Baghdad to seek refuge at the Philippine Embassy there.

They last saw each other 16 years ago, before they took their flights back to the Philippines—and after Virginia had told the witness of the abuse.

Last year, Virginia filed a rape case against the diplomat, whose name is being withheld in deference

to Norwegian laws.

After the news of the rape complaint made headlines in Norway, the diplomat was recalled from his ambassadorial post in an African country.

The diplomat is in his 50s and held a position in the Norwegian Embassy here in the Philippines in the 1990s.

Three Norwegian investigators came to the Philippines in April last year to interview Virginia about the rape.

Virginia is being assisted by lawyer Roy Señeres, former National Labor Relations Commission chair.

Enter Norwegian prober

The witness said Señeres and a Norwegian investigator reached her at her work in Jeddah last year to ask her if she was familiar with an incident that took place in the Baghdad house of a Norwegian diplomat 15 years ago.

"I was surprised to receive their calls because that incident took place a long time ago. But I do remember what happened in that house," the witness said.

The witness recalled that their group of Filipino workers arrived in Baghdad at dawn, and since the Philippine Embassy was still closed, they all slept on the street.

In the morning, they walked to the embassy. Along the way, they met the diplomat and his Filipino driver.

"The diplomat invited us to sleep in his house. We agreed because he looked really nice and, besides, his driver was a Filipino, too," the witness said.

While at the diplomat's house, the Filipino driver celebrated his birthday with a party.

"Most of them drank that night, but not me or the other women. After the party, we were in our room and I was talking to my cousin when the door suddenly opened," the witness recalled.

Drunk diplomat

"It was the diplomat. He was drunk. He then pulled the victim out of the room but she struggled. My cousin and I got scared of the diplomat that we

pretended to be asleep. She returned to our room a few hours later. She was crying. The next day, she was still in tears. We asked her what happened and she told us that the diplomat raped her. And he raped her twice since we arrived at the house," the witness added.

They decided to leave, fearing that the diplomat might start abusing the other women.

They rushed to the Philippine Embassy to report the incident and urged the staff to hasten the issuance of their travel documents so they could return to the Philippines.

"The last time I saw Virginia was in Jordan, where we took our flights back to the Philippines," the witness said.

In a separate interview, Señeres told the INQUIRER that the witness' testimony was "very important" in the rape case filed by Virginia.

While there had been little publicity in Manila on Virginia's ordeal, the rape case continued to be big news in Norway, Señeres said.

He urged the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to follow up Virginia's case.

Enter Señeres

"We have to show them (Norwegians) that our government is very interested in the case," Señeres said.

Gilberto Asuque, DFA spokesperson, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview last Friday, that the Philippine Embassy in Sweden, which also covered Norway, was monitoring the developments in case.

"Right now, the case is pending with Norwegian courts. Our embassy will inform us if there is already a decision," he said.

Asuque added that last year, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo met with the Norwegian ambassador in Manila to discuss the case.

The witness, now a businesswoman in Cavite, said she was not at all surprised that it took Virginia more than a decade to file a case against the diplomat.

FAST FACTS

Overseas Filipino Workers*

As of December 2004

REGION	TOTAL
AMERICAS/TRUST TERRITORIES	842,617
ASIA, West	1,561,781
ASIA, East & South	1,448,952
EUROPE	650,032
OCEANIA	88,335
AFRICA	75,510
SEABASED WORKERS	229,002
GRAND TOTAL	4,896,229

Source: Commission on Filipinos Overseas

* Covers 194 countries and territories; includes those not properly documented or with no proper resident or work permits

I cried . . .

From page A20

going to be okay: he was taking us with him, though only in spirit.

Finally, the van halted at the airport parking lot, filled with other vans, jeepneys, and FX taxis packed with families that had taken the same long trip to send off a loved one leaving for abroad.

It was time for my father to go.

With tears in my eyes, I bade my father goodbye. And for the first time, I mustered the courage to say to him three words I had been too shy to tell him before: "I love you, Tatay."

He replied: "Take care of your mother and brother. Study well so that I could go home as soon as possible." I had to hug him tightly.

How to pack love, care . . .

year-old father-in-law has been working as head nurse for 20 years. Her 72-year-old mother-in-law, a retired teacher, now works as a caregiver.

"They send us 30- to 50-kilo balikbayan boxes every three months," she says.

A typical balikbayan box from her in-laws contains 12-piece crates of Hormel corned beef, easy-to-open cans of peaches and strawberries, bottles of Vaseline lotion and bars of Dove soap. "They also send us vitamins, powdered juice, and spices," she says.

Practicality and style

For Joy, practicality and style go hand-in-hand when packing a balikbayan box.

"The cans usually go to the bottom of the box because they're heavy," she says. "They form a solid base."

She notes that her sister usually puts together in a box all the dry goods, like clothes and food. "Except for the cans that can be packed with the toiletries," she adds.

All bottle caps are taped to avoid leakage. "One time, a bottle of cooking oil leaked and I had to scrub everything in the box," Joy says.

Tips posted on balikbayangear.com suggest the use of Zip Lock plastic bags for bottles of liquid like shampoo, lotion and cologne, since high altitude can make them explode. They also suggest releasing the air from squeezable plastic containers, like saline solution or eye drops, before packing.

Joy's sister uses towels and other "squeezeables" like small stuffed toys to fill irregular spaces.

Unlike Joy's sister, Tsai's mother-in-law lines the bottom of the box with blankets before putting the crates of Hormel corned beef. "My mother-in-law sent me pots and pans once, and the pots held smaller canned goods, maximizing use of space," she says. "She did the same thing when she sent us a mini-microwave oven."

Aside from filling spaces, her mother-in-law also uses towels and blankets to wrap breakable items like coffee jars.

You need a friend

Overstuffed boxes are generally discouraged. Balikbayangear.com suggests you bring a friend when you check in your box just in case you exceed the weight limit. "Nonessentials" can then be unpacked and returned to you home by the friend, instead of being simply thrown away.

The use of a waterproof marking pen is also encouraged when labeling a box itself. Names, addresses and contact information should be written in clear bold letters.

Labels

Items inside balikbayan boxes for both Tsai and Joy are usually labeled.

"Ate usually sends oatmeal for dad, who has a heart condition. The chocolates are usually for me," Joy says.

France braces for showdown over jobs scheme

PARIS—UP TO A MILLION PEOPLE were expected to take to the streets across France Saturday in a decisive showdown over a contested youth jobs scheme, with security forces on alert for outbreaks of violence.

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin is facing the most serious

challenge of his premiership over a new youth job contract, denounced by its opponents and by two thirds of the French public as a license to hire and fire at will.

Saturday's day of action—which comes hard on the heels of mass protests by students, who have paralyzed dozens of French universi-

ties for weeks—was called by trade unions, students and the entire left-wing opposition.

Marches were planned in some 160 towns and cities, with the first to kick off in the morning, and the Paris rally set to leave Denfert-Rochereau in southern Paris at around 1330 GMT.

President Jacques Chirac has appealed for "calm and respect" to prevail, after violent street battles broke out Thursday night in Paris, pitting police against youth gangs described by the authorities as outside troublemakers.

Thousands of police are under orders to identify and isolate "pro-

fessional troublemakers," while surveillance has been stepped up in Paris' rough suburbs, for fear that gangs could use the protests as an excuse to cause trouble.

The First Employment Contract (CPE), voted by parliament on March 9, was designed as a solution to youth unemployment, which af-

fects one in four French youths, and hits 50 percent in some of the suburbs hit by rioting last year.

Opponents of the CPE, a first job contract for under-26-year-olds which can be broken off without explanation in the first two years, say it will entrench job insecurity among the young. **AFP**

Israel finds deadly bird flu virus in two farms

BEERSHEBA, ISRAEL—ISRAEL detected its first cases of H5N1 bird flu on Friday, saying the virus had killed thousands of turkeys and chickens on two farms.

Israeli authorities treated four people in hospital amid fears they had the virus, but Israeli media reported late on Friday the health ministry said none of the four poultry workers were suffering from bird flu.

Serbia said three children and a teenager from a bird flu affected area were in hospital after developing fever and flu-like symptoms.

Bird flu has spread with alarming speed in recent weeks across Europe, Africa and parts of Asia, stoking fears the virus could mutate into a form that could easily pass from one person to another, triggering a pandemic in which millions could die.

Three people who worked in poultry coops at Israeli farms where the virus was discovered were admitted to isolation units at Soroka Medical Center in the southern city of Beersheba.

A fourth worker who had also been in contact with turkeys at a farm about 70 km further north near the town of Kiryat Gat was admitted to hospital in Ashkelon.

Two farms were confirmed to

have infected poultry. Tests were being carried out on another two farms where H5N1 is suspected.

Agriculture ministry officials said that starting on Sunday morning, tens of thousands of fowl in the infected areas and their surroundings would be culled and that the carcasses would be buried in underground pits.

In a rare act of cooperation, Israel was also testing dead fowl found in the West Bank and Gaza on behalf of the Palestinian Authority to try to control the spread of the virus.

The four youngsters in hospital in Serbia came from a southwestern area close to the Bosnian border, where there was a suspected case of the deadly H5N1 strain in a cockerel.

"Three children were admitted to hospital today displaying symptoms of respiratory infection," Serbia's chief epidemiologist Predrag Kon said.

"Two of them have signs of a viral infection. All three are coming from the outbreak zone and came into contact with infected poultry."

A teenager put into isolation on Thursday after developing fever was also moved to hospital.

Reuters



SCARRED BY CONFLICT

This David Seymour black-and-white photo entitled: "Children Playing with Something That Was Once a Doll, Naples, Italy, 1948," is part of an exhibit of Seymour's photos at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington. Half a century after David Seymour died in a mini-war that pitted Britain and France against Egypt, his photos of children scarred by greater conflicts go on show. **AP**

Chinese tycoon executed over blackmailer slay

BEIJING—A CHINESE TYCOON ONCE worth more than \$360 million has been executed by lethal injection for having a man who tried to blackmail him killed, a court statement and news reports said Saturday.

Yuan Baojing and two accomplices were put to death by lethal injection Friday after a court in China's northeastern Liaoning province upheld a death sentence handed down last year, said a notice on the official Web site of China's courts.

News photos in several Chinese papers showed a bespectacled Yuan, wearing a white track suit and a long white scarf, standing in front of the judge in the Liaoyang City Intermediate People's Court.

"I refuse to accept it. I will inform against someone," the Beijing Youth Daily quoted Yuan as saying after the judge announced the final decision.

Yuan appeared "very agitated" as he was escorted out of the court, and was executed about 15 minutes later, the paper said.

Yuan, 40, was convicted in January last year of hiring a hit man in a failed plot to kill a business partner who had caused Yuan's company to lose 90 million yuan (\$11 million) in futures trading, according to earlier news reports.

The man who found the hit man for Yuan then blackmailed him, and Yuan paid his brother and then his cousin to kill the blackmailer. The blackmailer was shot to death in October 2003.

The charge cited for the execution was "intentional murder," the website said. Yuan's brother, Yuan Baoqi, and cousin, Yuan Baosen, were also executed Friday, it said.

Yuan made his fortune with the Beijing-based Jianhao Group and was estimated to be worth more than 3 billion yuan (\$363 million) in 1996.

Yuan's wife Zhuoma, a well-known Tibetan dancer who goes by one name, was not allowed to be present at the execution, the Beijing Youth Daily said. She was seen sobbing in a car outside the execution site and later received Yuan's ashes from the courts, it said.

The couple have a 4-year-old son, according to an earlier report in the North Morning Post newspaper. **AP**

UN biosafety meeting doesn't toughen rules on GMOs

CURITIBA, BRAZIL—CONSUMERS around the world concerned about risks posed by genetically modified (GMO) foods got little comfort on Friday from the close of the latest United Nations meeting on biosafety in Brazil.

Participating countries failed to make significant ground on the contentious issue of when to strengthen labeling restrictions on the movement of genetically modified foods

across national borders despite negotiations into the early hours of the morning in the week-long UN meeting.

Nearly all 132 countries that had signed on to the so-called Cartagena Protocol, which took effect in 2003 and aims for greater transparency in trade of GMO foods like soybeans and corn, had appeared ready ready to agree on a proposal floated by Brazil

earlier this week.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva backed the plan presented to the UN meeting by his Environment Minister Marina Silva for countries that signed on to the treaty to adopt tougher labeling rules by 2010.

In the end, Mexico objected to a key part of the new text of the treaty and forced a compromise that essentially leaves open the implementa-

tion of stronger language on labeling.

"Mexico wants a Biosafety Clearing House which will allow importers to look at all the GMOs grown in a country and decide whether to import. We are beyond the language 'contains' or 'may contain GMOs,'" the head of the Mexican delegation Marco Meraz told Reuters on the sidelines of the plenary session. **Reuters**

Oleg Cassini, chief designer for Jackie Kennedy, dies at 92

NEW YORK—OLEG CASSINI, WHO DESIGNED the dresses that helped make Jacqueline Kennedy the most glamorous first lady in history, died Friday. He was 92.

Cassini died on Long Island, near New York City, said Senada Ivackovic, marketing director for Oleg Cassini Inc. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Kennedy, only 31 when her husband was elected president, was the pinnacle of style in the White House years from 1961 to 1963. Her simple, geometric dresses in sumptuous fabrics, her pillbox hats and her elegant coiffure were copied by women from 18 to 80.

Cassini said that shortly after John Kennedy was elected, he persuaded his wife that she should use him, not as one of many designers, but as the creator of her total look. The one-time Hollywood costume designer turned couturier had been friendly with the Kennedy family for years.

"We are on the threshold of a new American elegance thanks to Mrs. Kennedy's beauty, naturalness, understatement, exposure and symbolism," Cassini said when his selection was announced.

The fashion establishment was shocked, Women's Wear Daily journalist John Fairchild wrote in

his 1965 book "The Fashionable Savages."

"Everyone was surprised," he wrote. "Oleg Cassini had been around for years. He was debonair, amusing, social, but none of the fashion intellectuals had considered him an important designer."

Cassini was born in 1913 in Paris to wealthy, aristocratic Russian parents who were later forced to flee their homeland after the Revolution. They settled in Italy, their fortune gone, but his mother gained some success as a dressmaker and her son eventually decided to go into the fashion business, too.

He came to the United States in 1936 and held various design jobs in New York before going to Hollywood and landing a job at Paramount in the early 1940s.

With the fame that came with his White House assignment came new business opportunities. He was one of the first designers to pursue licensing agreements that put his name on a large variety of products from luggage to nail polish—even a custom-designed automobile interior in the 1970s.

While the first lady sometimes wore clothes by others, Cassini provided the bulk of her wardrobe, later saying he had created 300 outfits in the less than three years of the Kennedy administration.

"In Hollywood, I was used to getting a script and a star and they'd say, 'Do it,'" Cassini told The Detroit News in 1995. "Now, with her, it was the same thing. I had to create a persona."

The strategy created a sensation from the beginning. Jacqueline Kennedy's Inauguration Day outfit of a fawn-colored wool coat with a sable collar, over a matching wool dress and a pillbox hat from Halston, launched millions of copycat outfits. **AP**



BUSH

2/3 in US say Bush mishandling Iraq, survey finds

WASHINGTON—MORE THAN TWO THIRDS of Americans think President George W. Bush is mishandling events in Iraq and almost a third believe civil war there is imminent, according to a Harris Poll published Friday.

More US adults are pessimistic about the situation in Iraq since the bombing of the Askariya shrine and the ensuing sectarian violence, a nationwide survey found.

Sixty-eight percent of those interviewed gave a negative rating of Bush's current handling of events in Iraq, and 30 percent were positive.

The president's ratings slipped from a previous survey in January, in which 61 percent were negative and 36 percent positive.

Asked about the possibility of a civil war in Iraq in the next six months, 30 percent of those polled said that such a war was very or extremely likely, with another 20 percent saying it was likely.

Sixty-one percent doubted that US policy in Iraq would be successful, up from 55 percent in January, while only 20 percent were confident, compared with 26 percent previously. **AFP**



VIRGINIA Joan Bennett, wife of US Senate candidate Edward M. Kennedy, modeling an evening gown at a benefit fashion show in Boston, Mass., on April 7, 1962. Fashion designer Oleg Cassini walks alongside the runway. **AP**

WORLD BRIEFS

Google told to reveal websites

SAN FRANCISCO—A federal judge denied a US government request that Google Inc. be ordered to hand over a sample of keywords customers use to search the Internet, but required on Friday that the company produce some web addresses indexed in its system. In a 21-page ruling, Judge James Ware of the US District for the Northern District of California said the privacy considerations of Google users led him to deny part of the justice department's request. US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales had subpoenaed Google to turn over data the government wanted from the company as part of the Bush Administration's attempt to defend a federal law on child pornography on the Internet. **Reuters**

2 die after RU-486 abortion pill use

WASHINGTON—Two women reportedly died after using the RU-486 abortion pills, US drug regulators said Friday without having confirmed the causes of the deaths. The Food and Drug Administration said that the manufacturer, Danco Laboratories, had reported the deaths and that the FDA was investigating. The FDA said that four women had died from bacterial infections 2003-2005 after so-called off-label use of the misoprostol, inserted vaginally, rather than orally, as indicated. The mifepristone drug in the regime was given orally, as directed. Doctors and patients need to be on the lookout for severe nausea, vomiting or diarrhea and weakness with or without abdominal pain and without fever, FDA said in a statement. **AFP**

Dangerous joy ride

ROME—The zig-zagging car gave them away. When Italian police pulled over the vehicle, they found a completely naked 70-year-old woman who had been trying to have sex with the driver—11 years her junior. After demanding the joy-riding couple get dressed, the police tested the semi-nude male motorist for drunk driving. "He was three times over the legal (blood-alcohol) limit," said police commander Angelo D'Anardo in the city of Cologno al Serio, northeast of Milan. "We assume they must have been drinking at lunch and then things got out of control." Asked if the couple were married, D'Anardo said he wasn't sure—but somehow doubted it. "Married people wouldn't probably do anything like this." **Reuters**

Tomatoes may lower asthma risk

NEW YORK—Women who eat plenty of tomatoes, carrots and leafy greens appear less likely to have asthma, researchers have found. Though it's uncertain whether the foods are the reason, the findings suggest that some vegetables may protect against adulthood asthma, the researchers report in the medical journal Thorax. **Reuters**

Agreement on Iran statement

UNITED NATIONS—The Security Council is inching toward agreeing a revised Franco-British draft urging Iran to suspend uranium enrichment, diplomats said Friday as China suggested that Tehran be given up to six weeks to do so. The 15-member council met for over one hour Friday to review the revised text, which incorporated comments made by members after a series of informal sessions earlier this week. Members agreed to meet again Tuesday after getting reactions from their capitals. **AFP**



The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Blair woes compounded by secret loan disclosures

LONDON—COMPOUNDING woes for Prime Minister Tony Blair, his Labour Party acknowledged Friday that it had received more than three times the amount it had previously reported in secret campaign loans.

The previously undisclosed loans have many Britons wondering whether Blair's party has fallen into the same kind of quagmire of sleaze that contributed to the defeat of the Conservatives in 1997.

Blair, who has been prime minister since then, has said he will not fight a fourth campaign, indicating that he will hand over power to Gordon Brown, the chancellor of the exchequer, before the next elections, which will be in 2010 at the latest.

In a statement on Friday, the Labour Party said it had taken loans worth \$24.5 million from individuals, more than three times the \$7 million it had previously reported. It did not say who had made the loans, which accounted for most of the \$31 million Labour said it spent on last May's elec-



TONY Blair preparing a reply to journalists' questions March 16. REUTERS

tions.

News reports had identified three of the lenders as wealthy businessmen who had been recommended by Blair for peerages, an honor that brings a title and membership in the House of Lords. Each had made a loan worth more than \$1.75 million.

In his monthly press conference on Thursday, an embattled Blair strongly denied that any loans to his party had been improper.

But he did reveal that he is considering changes to how nominations are made to the House of Lords, including a proposal to limit

the role of the prime minister in the process.

As part of the shake-up, Blair's official spokesperson announced on Friday a former senior civil servant, Sir Hayden Phillips, had been appointed to look at the future of party funding in liaison with the political parties.

"The prime minister has always said that it is better and more likely to be acceptable to the public if we progress this matter on the basis of consensus," the spokesperson added.

The suggestion of shady deals taking place behind closed doors

threatens to tarnish Labour with the same image of sleaze that tainted the main opposition Conservative Party, which governed Britain for 18 years until 1997.

It may also force Blair—who has pledged to step down ahead of the next general election—to make way for his heir-apparent, Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, sooner than intended.

Adding to the loans row, Labour's own treasurer, Jack Dromey, launched an inquiry into the issue this week after revealing he had been kept in the dark about the cash lent to Labour in the run-up to last May's general election.

Dromey is due to make a preliminary report next Tuesday to Labour's ruling National Executive Committee.

In a glimpse of the political tensions underlining the loans affair, an anonymous Blair supporter told The Guardian newspaper on Friday that Dromey had only gone public with his concerns in a bid to "put the final knife into the heart of Tony Blair on behalf of Gordon Brown."

Unlike gifts from supporters, loans do not have to be disclosed in the Electoral Commission's regularly-updated register of donations to parties. **NYT and AFP**



SEED OF LIFE

Bangladeshi women dry rice at a rice processing mill in Dhamrai, on the outskirts of the capital Dhaka on March 17. **REUTERS**



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A SUPPORTER kisses a portrait of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic inside the Museum of Revolution, where his coffin is on public display. Milosevic, 64, found dead March 11 in his prison cell while he was on trial at the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague is to be buried March 18 in his hometown Pozarevac near Belgrade. **AFP**



Autopsy on Milosevic finds no unusual drugs

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS—A Dutch autopsy on Slobodan Milosevic, the former Yugoslav president who was found dead in his cell last week, detected no evidence of any toxin, unprescribed medication or even abnormal levels of his prescribed medicines, the UN war crimes tribunal announced Friday.

"So far, no indications of poisoning have been found," Judge Fausto Pocar, the tribunal president, said at a crowded news conference.

Pocar emphasized that the results were preliminary, but reiterated that the autopsy had already disclosed two underlying "heart conditions that Slobodan Milosevic suffered from."

Even so, the new toxicology results from Sunday's autopsy did not resolve the mystery surrounding the presence of an unusual, and potentially dangerous, antibiotic found in one of Milosevic's earlier blood samples.

Court officials confirmed at the news conference that the antibiotic, rifampicin, had been found in a blood sample drawn from Milosevic in January. Even if investigators determine that rifampicin played no part in Milosevic's death, the presence of such a potent, nonprescribed medicine in his system suggests some sort of foul play or at least medical manipulation within the walls of the UN detention center.

How Milosevic consumed the antibiotic, to what end and how it got into the high-security detention unit is unclear.

"That is the burning question, and I have no ready answer to that," said Hans Holthuis, the court's registrar, or chief adminis-

trator. "The prison pharmacy has never stocked this drug."

Rifampicin is used to treat tuberculosis, but one of its side effects is to reduce or blunt the effects of other medicine, including blood pressure pills. Court officials and two toxicologists have speculated that Milosevic took it intentionally to exacerbate his chronic high blood pressure, in attempt to gain a temporary medical release.

But no traces of rifampicin were found during the autopsy. The Dutch public prosecutor who provided the court with the results said that according to the Dutch Forensic Institute, "rifampicin disappears from the body quickly," and finding no traces "implies only that it is not likely that rifampicin had been ingested or administered in the last few days before death."

Some doctors have said the investigation into Milosevic's death should focus more on whether he was evaluated or treated properly for heart disease while in prison. Pocar said internal investigations were continuing.

Dr. Leo Bokaria, a Russian heart specialist who flew to The Hague to review the autopsy records this week, suggested that Milosevic had died from undetected blockages in his coronary arteries. "Two stents" could have saved his life and given him "many long years," he said, according to Itar Tass news agency, referring to tubes that are surgically placed in arteries to reopen blockages.

On Thursday, the court said it would turn over all of Milosevic's medical reports to Dutch prosecutors investigating the death. **NYT**

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

PGA Cars, Inc.
Dealership and Leasing

AXIS

Philinvest Securities

PETRON
Fast Service

POC: Lina still best route to Fiba

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAYING THERE'S STILL TIME to work together, the Philippine Olympic Committee basketball task force sought the cooperation of Basketball Association of the Philippines president Joey Lina "as the best route to getting our national team in international competition."

But Lina, who quit the original group of five stakeholders tasked by the world basketball body (Fiba) to form a new basketball body, said he would cooperate once POC stops peddling "repeated half-truths and lies."

"My message to them is to present the complete story and not paint a bad picture of BAP. I will sit down with them if they present the true story," added Lina.

Mark Joseph, co-chair of the POC basketball task force, said in a statement yesterday that "there is still time to work together as the process of cooperation and coordination between POC and Fiba is just about to begin."

Despite POC's expulsion of the BAP and PBA's withdrawal of support from the controversial amateur cage body, Joseph noted that "the best route to getting our national team in international competition is by Mr. Lina helping the majority."

The PBA, PBL, UAAP and the NCAA had earlier backed the formation of Pilipinas Basketball to



LINA

replace BAP. Under a previous agreement, the structure of the new cage body will be presented by POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco to Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann for approval late this month.

Joseph said Lina is welcome to rejoin the unified cage body any time as it seeks the lifting of the Fiba suspension on the country following the POC expulsion of the BAP last June.

"We are keeping the doors and windows open to Mr. Lina whom we still believe has the best interest of Philippine basketball at heart," he said.

However, he said Lina should be willing and open to working with the majority's valid concerns as they were open-minded to his suggestions as well.

Yet Lina maintained that his refusal to leave the group was not unfounded.

"If I don't sign, I'm coming out as the *kontrabida* (spoiled sport)," said Lina. "But all these are repeated half-truths and lies."

Lina said the POC and the five stakeholders had already agreed after four meetings that BAP be readmitted but "with radically amended by-laws."

But on the fifth meeting which Lina failed to attend, "another process was abruptly agreed upon" by the group.

Smartly global

THE PBA GAME TODAY IN HONG KONG IS proof anew that Asia's first play-for-pay league is alive and kicking.

You simply couldn't transport a show overseas that easily if you are not solid. But that's what the PBA is all about all these years: Solid to the bone.

As I said, the PBA hasn't been in a better shape. It has even become smartly global.

Last year, it went to Jakarta to stage the game between Talk 'N Text and the now-disbanded Shell. Since that was a smash hit, it automatically needed a sequel. As we love to say, one good thing deserves another. Thus was born today's game between Purefoods and, well, Talk 'N Text—again.

It couldn't get any better than this, right?

But why Talk 'N Text again?

Well, let's give it to Manny V. Pangilinan. MVP, as he is fondly called, was again instrumental in making the game scheduled at 4 p.m. today at the Queen Elizabeth gym a reality. He knows Hong Kong like the palm of his hand, it being virtually his second home since he showed much of his business acumen in the Crown Colony. I don't know MVP personally but, nevertheless, here's a glass to him. You salute a legend when you see one and Smart Global's top honcho is but one of the few.

Oh, well, it's also worth mentioning that new league leaders like Ely Capacio and Noli Eala, chair and commissioner, respectively, of the PBA, never held back in their desire to have a game staged in Hong Kong. Suddenly, it's a dream come true for both.

And who can forget Bob Barreiro, the point man of Tony Boy Cojuangco at ABC5, whose own silent ways helped make the Hong Kong sojourn a reality.

And, yes, well, it also helped that MVP owns TNT.

He's no hypocrite, of course. That I've learned from people close to him that I have talked to, like Ricky Vargas, Mon Isberto and Wo Rosete. I'm sure the game today means a lot to MVP but the trip to Hong Kong could have more far-reaching effects in that the prestige it generates could speak

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



volumes, not only for TNT but the PBA as well. What is good for one team is good for the league. What is good for the league is good for all teams.

Today being a Sunday, I can just imagine our *kababayans* coming in droves to watch their favorite PBA players in the flesh. Is it true the game is for free for all our *kababayans* in Hong Kong?

Almost not surprisingly, an object of swooning today would be James Yap of Purefoods. Yap is a likely magnet to our Filipino nannies there since he is the current flame of movie/TV actress Kris Aquino (as if you didn't know), whose huge following extends beyond Philippine shores.

I will not be surprised if another PBA game in Hong Kong is already in the works.

Indeed, the world is getting smaller and smaller. What used to be just a league out to entertain Manila-based cage fans, the PBA has now become global.

Here's to a league that is not afraid to explore new frontiers.

DANCE SPORTS AT SAVANNAH. World-class dance sports specialists Belinda Adora and Michael Mendoza (not related to me) will have a special dinner-show tomorrow, March 20, at the Savannah Moon in Libis, Quezon City. Featured with them are the Dancemasters, Latin sports competitors, friends and supporters of Belinda and Michael. This will be the first public performance of Belinda and Michael since the couple won a gold medal in the recent SEA Games dance sports competitions in runaway fashion. Everybody is invited but on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Comments to menju@pltdsl.net

Matteo changes mind, joins Carmona Shell karting race

MATTEO GUIDICELLI OF THE CEBU RACING Group will see action in this year's 2006 Shell Helix Superkarting Series kicking off tomorrow at the Carmona Circuit Philippines after having a change of heart.

Last year's championship round ended in controversy as Guidicelli alleged "he was denied of equal chances for the crown by unfair decisions of race officials" in the final race. The disheartened 15-year-old and his father, Gianluca, were contemplating on giving up karting and explore other disciplines of motorsports.

But Guidicelli changed his mind after Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) chair Mandy Eduque brokered talks between the Guidicelli family and karting event organizer Johnny Tan.

Tan said that he was also saddened by last year's result, saying "it was beyond his control as organizer, it was the call of race officials."

Eduque, prodded by Alessandra team director Gerard Madrigal to talk to Guidicelli, said such incidents have happened before and that no stone will be left unturned in making sure that rules will be implemented "fair and square" this season.

"We're very happy that Mr. Eduque brokered this meeting to patch up everything and that [Matteo] is back in the fold," said Tan.

"You know, Matteo is such a great talent and



GUIDICELLI: Comeback kid

there's so much ahead of him, and it would be such a waste to just let a great talent go," said Eduque.

The AAP chair further vowed that he will install to more race stewards to make sure that all rules will be implemented unbiased not just to Guidicelli but to all the participants as well.

Guidicelli agreed to join the kickoff leg as part of the Alessandra Racing Team.

"This is for the love of the sport," said Guidicelli. "Honestly, I missed karting and it feels good to come back to the one you love." Guidicelli's stint will be backed by Animax, Pepsi, Penshoppe, Adict Mobile-AMR Swatch and Oakley.

"I also would like to express my appreciation to Gerard Madrigal who was always supportive of me when things got really bad last year," he added.

"We're very elated indeed that situations turned better now after the mediation of Mr. Eduque, whose passion for motorsports compelled our hearts to return," added Gianluca.

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March 28, 2006 (Tuesday)

Unleashing the Power of Passion in Work and Life

TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc. Passion is what gives shape and substance to our dreams in life and at work. We all can wield the power of passion to help us achieve our goals at work and in life. How do we unleash this power? Ms. Puangco will show us how we can tap into our innermost strengths to allow passion into our lives. In so doing, we are able to live up to our fullest potential as human beings.

March 29, 2006 (Wednesday)

Mastering Effective Face-to-Face Communication at Work

JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.

As e-mail, instant messaging and other electronic means of communication become common at work, the opportunities afforded by face-to-face communication have never been more important. This session will show you how to speak directly and confidently, assert yourself in uncomfortable situations, and offer constructive criticism. Learn also how to use the speaking word more effectively, influence listeners, convey confidence with body language and avoid misunderstanding.

March 30, 2006 (Thursday)

Managing Differences 360 Degrees

ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center

There will always be differences in personalities, ideas, perceptions and in many other areas among people. Working in organizations means that one has to work well with others. This session will give you a guide to managing differences with people from all levels in the organization such as your bosses, subordinates, colleagues and other people who support your company like suppliers, customers and other stakeholders. This skill may be the thin line which divides the survivors and the castaways in the organization.

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2006 Schedule

2nd Quarter Run: Bob Roemer Back in Manila! (To be confirmed) May 25 A.M. - Repeating the Seven Deadly Workplace Sins; P.M. - 6 Essential To-Do's to Be More Effective At Work

3rd Quarter Run: Tools for the New Workplace July 26 - Knowledge Management, Turning Knowledge Into Organizational Wisdom, July 27 - Using Heart for Successful Change Efforts, July 28 - Strategic Alliance Building, Collaborating With Your Competitors and Winning

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Clear shot at success for new Caddies' champ

By Musong R. Castillo

HIS USUAL DAY WOULD START AT around 6 in the morning with a long walk through the up-and-down roads of the Punta Baluarte complex to the Calatagan golf course serving as warm-up.

Jessie Balasabas has endured that for the past 13 months after migrating to Batangas from Zamboanga and setting several goals which he has divided into three stages.

"Because Calatagan has no driving range, I hit balls on the first tee and pick them up myself on the fairway after that," said the 23-year-old in Filipino moments after pocketing the second National Caddies' Open championship on Friday.

"After that, I tee it up again, hit more shots, pick the balls up again and hit some more until my arms and shoulders are sore," added Balasabas, who would take the same, long walk again at dusk for home.

Hard work and determination on top of the sacrifice of being away from family and friends for such a long time finally paid off for this crane operator's son, who beat the best 25-and-under caddies from all over the country after four de-



JESSIE Balasabas (second from right) receives the National Caddies' Open champion's trophy from San Miguel corporate communications vice-president Mon Santiago (second from left) during the awarding at Wack Wack Friday. Joining them are, from left: SMB's Robert Non and NCO co-chairs Ben Abalos and Hermie Esguerra

manding rounds that started last Monday.

"Golf is the only ticket I have to a better life, and it's also the only one that a lot out there also have," Balasabas, a former seminarian, said. "I hope they (fellow caddies) do the same. Nothing comes easy in this world. We all have to work for what we want to achieve."

The first stage in Jessie's goals achieved after winning the Caddies' Open, he asked

permission from Tommy Manotoc for a five-day vacation back in Zambo before resuming work in Calatagan, no longer as a bag-toter but a legitimate amateur prospect with a bright future.

"I want to be able to play for Canlubang," said Balasabas when asked what the second stage was. "I grew up idolizing that team. The Philippine team comes last and I will not stop until I achieve that."

Letran-Calamba sets charity bike

THE LETRAN COLLEGE FOUNDATION INC. is organizing the Maki-Bike sa Letran (Calamba) Bikathon for a Cause, a 105-km road race for elite and executive riders set March 26 on an out-and-back course in Letran-Calamba.

Proceeds of the event that also serves as a tune-up race for the participants to the Padyak Pinoy-Tour Pilipinas 2006 will go to the Non-Formal Education Tuloy Aral Program of Letran Calamba.

Backed by PLDT, Tambunting and the Angat Laguna Foundation and sanctioned by

PhilCycling and supervised by the Philippine National Cycling Association headed by Paquito Rivas, the race starts at 9 a.m. but participants are advised to check in at the start at 7 a.m.

From the Letran-Calamba start, the riders will pedal through Nagcarlan, Santa Cruz and Pagsanjan, before heading back to the finish also at the Letran-Calamba.

The winner in the elite category will bring home P7,000. The second to the 10th placers will also have corresponding cash prizes.

Heritage Cup 2nd leg slated March 21 and 23

THE SECOND leg of "Philippine Heritage Cup 2006 5-cock derby" is all set at the Araneta Coliseum this coming Tuesday and Thursday, March 21 and 23, with the full backing of sponsors Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace. A participant may choose to field an entry either on Tuesday or Thursday (straight five cocks on each day), according to Rene "Boy" Diaz, one of the officers of Luzon-Based Gamecock Breeders Association (LBGBA) which is organizing the event. A guaranteed prize of P600,000 is at stake in each day of competition, for an entry fee of only P10,000. Participants are requested to submit entries tomorrow, Monday, March 20 at the Araneta green gate, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 911-3101 and 911-2928.

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US stars head back to training camps in shock

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—STUNNED American players departed Friday for Major League Baseball training camps after their surprise elimination from the World Baseball Classic before the semifinal round.

A 2-1 US loss to Mexico allowed Japan to advance instead of the Americans due to a complex tie-breaker that would have favored the US team had it been designated a home team against Mexico. Instead, the US squad was out at home.

"Shock. It was shock," New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez said. "This is a big disappointment. We feel baseball is best in the

US and it's difficult not to carry that out."

The Japanese, who saw little hope after a 2-1 loss to South Korea on Wednesday, were stunned at the early US ouster as well.

"The American team was full of major league players," Japan's Nobuhiko Matsunaka said. "We all thought they would be the best in this tournament."

So did they.

"I never felt this would happen in a million years. I never felt it would end like this," US pitcher Jake Peavy said. "Everyone is very disappointed. With the talent we had in our clubhouse, we should have put in a better charge."

US manager Buck Martinez admitted the American stars could learn much from their global rivals and the work ethic of their practice sessions compared to those of millionaire major leaguers.

"Some of the things the Japanese and Koreans do as a regular practice could benefit Major League Baseball clubs," Martinez said.

"The way they execute fundamentally, their positioning, their execution of a pitching plan—they don't make any mistakes. They don't rattle. They are well disciplined."

"You see the value of their practice regimen where they take hundreds of ground balls a day. They swing 100 times a day

more than we do in North America. I think it's time to say, 'You know what, that's not a bad idea.'"

A US lineup featuring Rodriguez, Derek Jeter, Ken Griffey Jr., Johnny Damon, Chipper Jones and legendary pitcher Roger Clemens was humbled.

"The whole world is surprised to see the US lost," said Dominican Republic shortstop Miguel Tejada.

"But this game isn't about the names. It's about how you play on the field."

The 3-3 US mark included a 2-0 opening win over Mexico and a controversial 4-3 win over Japan in which an umpire's over-

ruling of a call cost Japan a run.

"I was really surprised the American team lost to the Mexican team because we thought somehow the American team would be the world's best," said Japanese manager Sadaharu Oh.

"Because of that notion, when we lost the second game in the second round we never thought we would be playing here."

Helping doom that idea were Korean pitchers who proved themselves as capable and consistent as major leaguers in wiping out a lineup featuring a talented US lineup despite some who stayed away to train with their club teams.

APF

Pacers spoil Artest return

NY Knicks shock Pistons

INDIANAPOLIS—RON ARTEST was booed loudly and shot poorly in his return to Indiana as the Pacers beat the Sacramento Kings, 98-93, in the NBA on Friday.

Artest was playing in Indianapolis for the first time since his trade request was granted and he was sent to the Kings for Peja Stojakovic seven weeks ago. Artest scored 18 points, but shot 6-for-22 from the field, including 2-for-14 in the second half.

He was booed during pregame introductions and that continued every time he touched the ball.

The fans reserved their loudest pregame cheers for Stojakovic, who scored 20 points to help the Pacers snap the Kings' five-game winning streak.

Danny Granger had a career-high 23 points and Jamaal Tinsley added 20 for Indiana (33-30).

In New York, Jamal Crawford scored 15 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, including the tiebreaking jumper with 2.2 seconds left, and the Knicks rallied to upset the Detroit Pistons, 105-103.

Eddy Curry added 16 points and 11 rebounds and Steve Francis scored 15 points for the Knicks, who were decked out in green for the first time ever to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. They looked nothing like the team that has one of the NBA's worst records in Larry Brown's first season as coach after two seasons with the Pistons.

Chauncey Billups scored 24 points for the Pistons, who lost All-Stars Rasheed Wallace and Richard Hamilton to ejections in the third quarter and their magic number to clinch the Central Division title remained at two.

In Atlanta, the Utah Jazz continued its mastery of the Hawks with a 111-101 rout and stayed close in the Western Conference playoff race.

In Washington, Jason Terry and Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 points apiece, and the

Dallas Mavericks pulled away in the second half for a 104-94 triumph over the Wizards.

In Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 18 points, 13 rebounds and six blocked shots to help the Magic beat the Boston Celtics, 84-77.

In Toronto, Chris Bosh had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and the Raptors rallied from a 16-point deficit in the final six minutes to nip the Milwaukee Bucks, 97-96.

The Bucks led 94-78 with 5:41 left, before Toronto finished the game on a 19-2 run—capped by Bosh's two free throws with 3.4 seconds remaining.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Nenad Krstic scored 26 points and tapped in a missed shot by Vince Carter with 13 seconds left to lift the New Jersey Nets over the Los Angeles Lakers, 92-89.

Smush Parker had brought the Lakers to within 90-89 on a 3-pointer with 34 seconds left. Carter drove the lane and missed, but Krstic scored on the rebound to give the Nets a three-point lead. Kobe Bryant missed a long 3-pointer at the buzzer.

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 27 points to lead the Cavaliers to a 99-84 cruise past the Portland Trail Blazers.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Miller matched a franchise record with 41 points as the Grizzlies whipped the Denver Nuggets, 116-102.

In San Antonio, Nazr Mohammed matched a career high with 30 points and had 16 rebounds as the Spurs shaded the Phoenix Suns, 108-102.

San Antonio (51-14) has won three straight and is a half-game behind Dallas in the chase for the top record in the Southwest Division and the Western Conference.

In Los Angeles, Elton Brand had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Cuttino Mobley had 20 points against his hometown team, and the Clippers coasted to a 99-89 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

With their 38th win, the Clippers surpassed their total from last season. Four more victories in their final 18 games would clinch only their second winning season since 1978-79, when the team was based in San Diego.



DALLAS' Nowitzki goes up to block a shot by Washington's Caron Butler. REUTERS

Title fight highlights 'heavy' sob story

ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY—ONE IS A flabby 37-year-old with four heavyweight fights to his name. The other's a one-punch wonder who had the WBC belt handed to him.

On Saturday, James Toney and Hasim Rahman square off in a 12-round championship fight so ho-hum that HBO is showing it for free and more than 2,000 tickets remained unsold a day before. It's a sign of the times for a heavyweight division mired in the doldrums with no unified champion, no compelling personalities and no great rivalries.

"I have never seen a period of time when the heavyweight championship meant so little," said promoter Bob Arum. "It's clear."

Rahman, 33, earned his 15 minutes of fame when he stunned heavyweight king Lennox Lewis with a one-punch knockout in 2001.

"It was the greatest moment in his career, and it was one of the greatest upsets in boxing history, but in some ways, it didn't help him as a boxer," said manager Steve Nelson. "He thought it was easy and that the rest would be easy."

It hasn't been.

Rahman lost the rematch seven months later and things went downhill from there as he struggled with weight problems and inconsistency. He ballooned to 259 pounds (116 kilograms) for his loss to David Tua in 2003 and bear-hugged his way through a loss to WBA champion John Ruiz later that year.

Since then, he has mounted a comeback, winning six straight.

Rahman (41-5-1) was scheduled to fight WBC champion Vitali Klitschko last year. The bout was postponed twice because of injuries before Klitschko finally retired and his belt was given to Rahman, the No. 1 contender.

AP

Phone Pals target first win vs Giants

From page A27

Meneses, Willie Miller and Asi Taulava on the firing end.

Ginebra's Mark Caguioa torched the Phone Pals with a conference-high 39 points before Air21's high-octane offense nipped Talk 'N Text.

If it's any consolation, the Phone Pals claim the distinction of having won the league's first out-of-the-country outing by beating the now-defunct Shell Tur-

bochargers in Jakarta, Indonesia, last season.

But to break into the win column, the Phone Pals have to contend with a Purefoods team still in high spirits after its championship stint in the last tournament.

The Giants (1-1) opened the conference by whipping the towering Sta. Lucia Realtors and seemed on the way to a second

victory over the Coca-Cola Tigers until Rob Wainwright sneaked in a couple of huge baskets that helped topple the Giants.

Against the heftier Phone Pals, coach Ryan Gregorio and his Giants need to overcome their rivals in the shaded area.

"We must quicken the pace," said Gregorio. "But to do it, we should also get a measure of consistency on the offensive end."

James Yap shot poorly in the Coca-Cola clash while Kerby Raymundo was hounded by Ali Peek and Billy Mamaril the last time out. Jun Limpot, Roger Yap, Noy Castillo and Rey Evangelista should also perform well.

The Phone Pals have the deeper bench, but Pumaren would rather see his new team put extra defensive effort than engage the Giants in a shooting contest.

Fired-up Sharapova stops Hingis

INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA—ELENA Dementieva rallied from the brink of defeat to upset Justine Henin-Hardenne, 2-6, 7-5, 7-5, on Friday at the Pacific Life Open and set up an all-Russian final with Maria Sharapova.

Sharapova defeated Martina Hingis, 6-3, 6-3, to reach Saturday's final.

Henin-Hardenne appeared set to finish a routine victory when she served for the match at 6-2, 5-2, after about an hour. But the top seed lost her serve, and failed again trying to close it out at 5-4.

After losing five straight games to drop the set and some confidence, Henin-Hardenne had her right knee strapped.

The first four games of the final set were all service breaks but the pair settled down, with fourth-seeded Dementieva continuing to run down shots and offering fewer errors.

Ultimately, Henin-Hardenne had to save a match point at end a long rally, but when she faced another Dementieva match point serving at 5-6 after almost three hours, Henin-Hardenne netted a backhand and lost for only the second time this year.

Sharapova dominated Hingis with powerful groundstrokes, hitting 29 winners to nine by the Swiss star in their third meeting in seven weeks. Hingis beat Sharapova in Tokyo, and Sharapova won

in Dubai last month.

When Hingis seemed to be gaining momentum in the second set, a man in the stands behind Sharapova yelled, "Martina, she's getting tired."

Sharapova said, "That kind of pumped me up and I hit two winners in a row. I looked back at (him) and I'm like, 'I'm tired, my butt.'"

The 18-year-old Russian with a virtually flawless and quite colorful English vocabulary, smiled and added, "So don't mess with a truck. You're going to become a pancake." She won over the fan.

The 25-year-old Hingis, back full-time on the tour for the first time since her injury-plagued 2002 season, looked out of synch against Sharapova.

OSCAR DE LA HOYA'S GOLDEN BOY PROMOTIONS yesterday inked a deal with the ALA Group of sportsman Tony Aldeguez, essentially making the US-based outfit the sole promotional firm that will chart the career of Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista and Z "The Dream" Gornes.

The contract was signed at a press conference held at the Cebu City Sports Club between Golden Boy vice president Eric Gomez and Sampson Lewkowicz on one side and Tony Aldeguez and Sammy Gello-ani on the other side.

Prior to the contract-signing, De la Hoya, who is currently training in Puerto Rico for his May 6 fight with Ricardo Mayorga for the WBC light middleweight title, took part in a teleconference with the media. "Filipino and Mexican warriors are the best in the business," said De la Hoya. "One day, I would fly to the Philippines to be with you all."

Salven Lagumbay

GCAP sets 70 matches

MORE THAN 70 TOUGH MATCHES ARE LINED UP in the upcoming Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby at San Juan Coliseum on Wednesday, March 22. Expected to figure prominently are top-rated entries like JT Emerald of Jun Taponio, Sagupaan Complexor 3000 of sabong idol Patrick Antonio and Pichay Spartan of Rep. Butch Pichay and Rey Briones. Event sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Last March 1, the longshot Gerona entry of Cris Milla topped the GCAP derby. Meanwhile, a 3-cock derby is also slated at SJC on March 27.

AP

Glover feels right at home; Woods seven down

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—LUCAS GLOVER surged into the lead at the Bay Hill Invitational with birdies on two of his last three holes for his second straight 5-under 67 and a one-shot lead over Robert Allenby and Rod Pampling on Friday.

Halfway through a sun-baked tournament, Glover has a chance to join

some elite company. Tiger Woods and the late Payne Stewart are the only players to win individual titles at both Orlando events on the US PGA Tour, and Woods is the only player to win them consecutively.

Glover won the other Orlando tournament at Disney World five months ago, and the 26-year-old from South

Carolina can't explain his success in these parts. He only hopes it continues.

"I think Tiger even said it—if you're playing well, you don't mind where you're playing," said Glover, who was at 10-under 134 on a Bay Hill Club course that was getting firmer and tougher.

Scores remained bunched, with more than a dozen players within five shots of

the lead going into the weekend.

Woods wasn't among them. He rarely hit it close to the flag all afternoon, the exception coming at the par-5 sixth with an approach over the water to 8 feet for eagle. He followed that with a three-putt bogey from 25 feet, and wound up with a 1-under 71 to finish seven shots off the lead.

AP



SHARAPOVA gains against Dementieva.

REUTERS

Juggernaut tries to keep streak intact

P2.55M 'Kabayan' races get going at SLLP

CARMONA, CAVITE—JUGGERNAUT, the undefeated filly loom-ing as a bright Triple Crown hope, sets out as the heavy fa-vorite against nine other charg-ers today in the P1 million Philracom Chairman's Cup to be disputed over the mile at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

The chestnut daughter of American sire Mr. Sutter out of Plate Lady, Juggernaut will have Jonathan B. Hernandez on the saddle as she seeks to an eighth straight win while competing for the first time on this ultra-modern track.

Last year's juvenile champion Juggernaut is being prepared for the coming Triple Crown

series starting May and this race is a virtual preview of the first leg with other prospects Million Dollar, Manila's Gem, Kilimanjaro and King's Dominion also in the field.

Veteran Antonio Alcasid Jr. will partner King's Dominion, a chestnut mare by Bull Mar- ket out of Reasonable Share whose best effort over this distance is 1:43 also at Santa Ana.

Patty Dilema rides Kilimanjaro, JM Ladiana handles Million Dollar and Jesse B. Guce will be Manila's Gem's rider for the race that offers P600,000 to the winner.

Meanwhile, a total pot of P2.55 million will be disputed in seven other big races to honor vice-president Noli de Castro.

The P450,000 PCSO Maiden Race is also one of the highlights, with Red Diamond, Golden Connection, Bombshell Beauty, Ideal Gaze and Harana disputing the P300,000 winner's purse.

Musong R. Castillo

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—Real Tough (4), Perky Perp (5), Remus (1), Bull Knight (6)	
Race 2—(Tri)—Marque (3), Bellin Ballin (2), I Love This Game (5)	
Race 3—Last Snip (2), Sweet Connection (3)	
Race 4—(Penta/Tri)—Hazzmag (6), Puppy Dog Tail (10), Luv Almighty (1), Rhyme And A Prayer (3), Iron Heart/Mystic Dragon (2)	
Race 5—Tri—Golden Connection (3), Ideal Gaze (5), Red Diamond (2)	
Race 6—(Super/Ort/Tri)—Pangako Sa Yo (3), Silver Music (2), He's So Lucky (13), Sandok (8), Empire Lady (5), Jayvie's Godfather (10)	
Race 7—(Ort/Tri)—Suppressed (3), Absolute Charmer (4), Danseuse (6), Successful Dream (2)	
Race 8—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Screaming Eagle (2), Time Enchant- ed/Madel Line (3), Western Dancer (6), Shutter (9), Long Hit- ler (5)	
Race 9—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Juggernaut (7), Kilimanjaro (4), King's Dominion (3), Million Dollar (1), Manila's Gem (2)	
Race 10—(Super Six/Ort/Tri)—Lady Be Gold (8), Ravensworth (11), Leading Man (5), La Española (3), Heart Of The Wind (1), Brute Force (6)	
Race 11—(Ort/Tri)—Hikoryingay Ingay (6), Sovereign Dancer (5), Shifty (2), Hole And Hearty (1)	
Race 12—(Pentafecta/Ort/Tri)—Courage Heart (11), Hezabellagio (12), Ichiro (9), Romario (8), Bullish Dream (6)	
Race 13—(Super/Tri/Ort)—Cool Operator (4), Miss Vicki (5), As- timeogiesby (3), Dazzling Affair (12), Jokes Only (1), Rock At- tack Attack (7)	

BY TOP CHOICE



MARCH MADNESS
Monmouth's Corey Hallett (left) and Villanova's Will Sheridan (right) battle for the ball during the second half NCAA first round college basketball game in Philadelphia. At bottom is Monmouth's Marques Alston. Villanova defeated Monmouth, 58-45, to advance in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

INVITATION TO BID

The Bank will foreclose and auction the following: Property Location and Description		Area (sq.ms.)
Makati City: Vacant lot located along M. Santillan St., Barangay Arnaiz (Pio del Pilar) North, Makati City		329
Bulacan: Two (2) parcels of land located at No. 331 Balagtas-Bustos Provincial Rd., Mataas na Sampalok, Brgy. Bulihan, Plaridel, Bulacan		4,536
Improvements: 1) A one-storey production building 2) A one-storey canteen/maintenance building 3) A three (3) - two-storey building 4) A two-storey guard house/barracks building		2,686 (aggregate)
Cavite: 3 contiguous lots located along the Provincial Rd., Barangay Alulod, Indang, Cavite		58,338 (aggregate)
Brokers Welcome. For particulars, please call 811-5807 to 14 Look for Gee / Cirila / Dannie		

(PDI - March 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

South Africans rule team golf

KUALA LUMPUR—THE COBRA TEAM OF RE-public of South Africa shot 239 on the final day for a 704 total to clinch the overall low gross cham-pionship title of the first qualifying round of the World Amateur Inter-Team Golf Championship held at the Hill and Lake layouts of the Kelab Golf Perkhidmatan Awam here Saturday.

With the victory, the Cobras—Nelius Swart, Nilo Van Rensburg, Henk Smith and Philip Crous—gained an outright entry in the finals set Sept. 11-14 at Selangor's Kelab Golf Sul-tan Abdul Aziz Shah golf course.

The competition was organized by Tourism Malaysia and Golf Club Managers Association of Malaysia.

The Kuala Lumpur leg featured 25 teams from countries like Australia, China, Indone-sia, Thailand and the United Kingdom. Two Philippine teams are set to see action in the second leg in Sabah scheduled April 17-20.

'Unified Sports' program kicks off

THE NATIONAL UNIFIED Sports Program will be launched and the Philippine Sports Institute will be put in-to operation on March 29 at the Multi-Pur-pose Arena, Philsports in Pasig City.

Health secretary Francisco Duque, De-partment of Education officer in charge Fe Hi-dalgo, Commission on Higher Education chair Carlito Puno, In-terior secretary Ronal-do Puno are the key speakers in a plenary called the 2006 RP Unified Sports Pro-gram, with assistance from Pagcor, STI, Cen-trum, SuperRemy and Air Philippines.

The session hopes to establish different agencies as "partners and co-workers" to maximize partici-pation in sports while driving for excellent performance.

Deadline for sub-mission of registration forms for outside Metro Manila partici-pants is on March 21 and March 24 for Metro Manila partici-pants and observers.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bayawan, through its Specialized Bids and Awards Committee, invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following project:

Bid Number	Name of Project	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Fund
06-0258	Integrated Bus Terminal (Phase-1)	P28,141,263.01	General Fund

Project Location/Delivery Area: Bayawan City Warehouse
Contract Duration: 12 working days upon receipt of Purchase Order

The complete schedules of bidding activities are as follows:

ACTIVITY	DATE
Advertisement/Publishing of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid	March 12, 2006
Issuance of Bid Documents	March 15, 2006
Pre-bid Conference	March 20, 2006
Deadline for the submission & Opening of Eligibility Requirements (for Non-Accredited Suppliers) & LOI for Accredited Suppliers (Specialized BAC Office)	March 30, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)
Deadline/Opening of Bids (Specialized BAC Office)	March 31, 2006 (10:00 a.m.)

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents will be available for Issuance at the Specialized BAC Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall Bldg., Bayawan City (Tel. (035) 531-0800) upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee.

Prospective Bidders shall duly accomplish eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals and submit the same in 2 (two) separate sealed envelopes on or before the date indicated above.

The Specialized Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all bids or part thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids considered most advantageous to the City Government of Bayawan.

(Sgd.) Atty. VICTORIANO D. ALABASTRO
Chairman, Specialized Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - March 12 & 19, 2006)

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on cash or term basis (minimum 30% down payment and 16% interest rate per annum, maximum of 7 years to pay):

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum / Floor Price
06-13	Block Making Machine	Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	P 865,224.29
06-14	278,369 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Sulpok, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-15	188,351 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Malaking Pulo, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-16	106,073 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Dona Jacoba, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-17	35,138 sqm raw land with CARP Exemption	Bgy Suplang, Tanauan, Batangas	P 350.00 / sqm
06-18	450,000 sqm raw land with DAR Conversion	Bgy Batas, Silang, Cavite (beside Riviera Golf & Sports Club)	P 800.00 / sqm
06-19	450,162 sqm raw land with DAR Conversion	Bgy Batas, Silang, Cavite (beside Riviera Golf & Sports Club)	P 800.00 / sqm
06-20	132,189 sqm residential raw land	Bgy Mapalad, Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija (near Fort Magsaysay)	P 400 / sqm
06-21	17,996 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-22	2,584 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-23	5,065 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-24	6,465 sqm commercial lot	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 17,000.00 / sqm
06-25	2,291 sqm commercial lot (not contiguous)	Acharon Blvd., General Santos City	P 15,000.00 / sqm

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting March 20, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 from the Office of the Head, Property Management, 3/F, RSBS Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

A Pre-Bidding Conference is scheduled on March 24, 2006 at 10:00 AM, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on April 5, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON or MR. DARWIN MANZANO at telephone numbers 9124718 or 9114071 local 249

(PDI - March 17, 18 & 19, 2006)

Province of Negros Oriental BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education (DepED) is a recipient of an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of JPY 7.21 million to finance the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be utilized for eligible expenditures for the new construction of a Three-storey, Fifteen Classroom Building with Three Toilets at Negros Oriental High School, Daro, Dumaguete City, Province of Negros Oriental.

JBIC requires that bidders and contractors as well as the DepED, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of the contract. In pursuance of this, JBIC (i) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question, and (ii) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract financed by JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) registered contractors or joint venture contractors with valid license, general building in category and eligible to enter a contract based on award. Schedule of issuance of bidding documents, pre-bid conference and opening of bids, are as follows:

Activities	Schedules
Issuance of Bidding Documents	Date : March 13-20, 2006 Place : Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City
Pre-Bid Conference	Date : April 26, 2006 Place : Governor's Office, Capitol Building, Dumaguete City Time : 10:00 A.M.
Opening of Bids	Date : May 5, 2006 Place : Governor's Office, Capitol Building, Dumaguete City Time : 10:00 A.M.

The complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon submission of a Letter of Intent addressed to the BAC Chairman of Negros Oriental, Atty. Ismael P. Martinez and payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,500.00 to the Treasurer's Office, Capitol Building, Dumaguete City.

Submission of bids together with all the documents required in the bid documents must be delivered to the aforesaid venue and dates. All bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of all bidders or their legally authorized representatives.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-March 12 & 19, 2006)



CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. # (075) 532-2222 / 532-3146

INVITATION TO BID

The Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CENPELCO) with office address at Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan invites all qualified bidders for the supply and delivery of the following substation equipment including installation and commissioning for the proposed 5 MVA Labrador substation;

- a. 69 KV Metering Equipments - 1 set
- b. 69 KV Air Break Switch - 1 set
- c. 69 KV SF6 Power Circuit Breaker - 1 set
- d. 15 KV Feeder Protection Equipment
 - d.1 15 KV Vacuum Circuit Breaker (Main) - 1 set
 - d.2 15 KV Vacuum Circuit Breakers (Feeder) - 2 sets
 - d.3 Accessories and Miscellaneous - 1lot
- e. Steel Structures and foundations - 1lot

All interested parties shall submit Letter of Intent together with their latest company profile and secure bid documents re: Technical specifications and scope of works to PBAC secretariat starting March 22, 2006. In addition, a non refundable fee of Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (P750.00) shall be paid before securing said documents. Submission of sealed bid will be on April 06, 2006 (Thursday) at 2:00 PM (1400 hrs) at CENPELCO main office, Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representative. Prior to the bidding proper your company's representatives are requested to inspect/assess the sites for your accurate quotation.

Request further to include in your sealed bids/proposals the delivery date, terms of payment, schedule of activities and commissioning period for evaluation purposes. The BID BOND is either in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to two and a half percent (2 1/2 %) of the total bid price or surety bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Bid bond less than the required amount will be automatically disqualified. Bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted.

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS. WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE

(Sgd.) RODRIGO F. CORPUZ
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARDO R. PIAMONTE
Executive Officer/Project Supervisor

(PDI - March 14 & 19, 2006)



REGION VIII-EASTERN VISAYAS DIVISION OF BILIRAN

Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project

Naval, Biliran

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: March 9, 2006
Loan No.: PH-P200
Project ID: 3-BIL/FUR-06-6Sa

- The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED), in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
- The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, industrial arts, libraries, faculty and guidance rooms of the different secondary schools in the Division Office of Biliran, following the schedules below:

Particulars	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 15-22, 2006		Division Office of Biliran
Pre-Bid Conference	March 24, 2006	2:00 pm	Naval, Biliran
Bid Opening	April 7, 2006	2:00 pm	

- Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantities of all the furniture items intended for the selected schools in the Division of Biliran, per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents and as summarized below:

School Name	Address	Furniture Package
Cabucgayan NHS	Cabucgayan	Library furniture (1 package) Guidance room furniture (1 package) Faculty room furniture (1 package)
Cabucgayan NSAT	Cabucgayan	Classroom furniture (4 packages)
Almeria NHS-Baluarto Extension	Almeria	Classroom furniture (6 packages)
Viga NHS	Maripipi	Industrial Arts furniture (1 package)
Higatangan NHS	Naval	Science Laboratory furniture (1 package)
Naval NHS		Classroom furniture (2 packages) Science Laboratory furniture (1 package)

- Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) Office at telephone number (053)500-9279, or through the SEDIP-NPMO Office at telephone numbers (02) 637-5833 / 632-0456.

- Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) only

- Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage to the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the Division Office at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives

- The Division BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) JOSE R. GAVIOLA
Chairman, Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - March 12 & 19, 2006)

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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72 pairs vie for beach volley crowns

SEVENTY-TWO TEAMS REPRESENTING 43 colleges and universities across the country are seeing action in the Nestea Beach Volley 2006 which kicks off its Luzon eliminations on Monday at the La Salle Green Hills sand court.

The tournament will also hold the Visayas-Mindanao qualifying from March 28 to 30.

The top qualifiers of summer's biggest beach volley series will then head to the island paradise of Boracay for the semifinals

and grand finals on May 4 to 6.

"Over the years, Nestea Beach Volley has constantly featured a refreshing selection of talented athletes," said Nestlé assistant vice president Tina Samaco.

Heading the Luzon teams are men's defending champion College of St. Benilde, Adamson University, La Salle and Far Eastern University and University of Santo Tomas.

Favored in the Visayas-Mindanao eliminations are three-time women's defending champion

Southwestern University, University of Cebu, University of Iloilo and University of Negros Occidental Recoletos.

The Nestea Beach Volley 2006 is sponsored by Speedo, Mikasa, Cebu Pacific, Villa De Oro Boracay Beach Resort, Le Soleil de Boracay, Canon Powershot, Club Ten Resort, D' Mall D' Boracay, Hey! Jude Resort, Schering-Plough Coppertone, La Salle Green Hills, ClicktheCity.com, Crystal Sand Resort, Boracay Gold Crowne Club, Bantay Kalikasan ABS-CBN Foundation and Nautilus.



ACTION picks up this summer among school beach volley teams.

POC decides on key posts Wednesday

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC Committee General Assembly will fill up the vacant second vice president slot and name the Philippine chief de mission for the Doha Asian Games this Wednesday.

Three candidates are being floated as replacement for judo chief Reynaldo Jaylo as the second VP while First Gentleman Mike Arroyo remains the POC's "first option" to head the RP delegation for the Asiad in December.

POC secretary general Steve Hontiveros yesterday said he expects amateur boxing's Manny Lopez, baseball's Hector Navasero and swimming's Mark Joseph to seek the body's fourth most powerful seat.

The top three POC officials are chair Robert Aventajado, president Peping Cojuangco and first VP Monico Puentevilla.

Lopez is a former POC official

during the term of Celso Dayrit. Joseph is among the young and energetic men in the local Olympic body and heads the powerful committee tackling the troubled basketball association.

Hontiveros, meanwhile, said Arroyo has yet to make up his mind whether to accept the chief of mission position, the same post he held during the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The POC last month came up with a resolution asking the First Gentleman to reconsider his decision not to raise funds anymore for the national athletes to prepare for the Asiad.

After raising more than P160 million from the private sector in the leadup to the 2005 SEAG, the First Gentleman had a change of heart early this year after receiving negative writeups for climbing the ring in Las Vegas and joining the celebration after Manny Pacquiao kayoed Mexican Erik Morales last January.

NBC: Golden Harvest brings down Pagadian

PAGADIAN CITY—FIVE-FOOT-SEVEN Julius Navales stood tall for Valencia City Friday night as he scored five points in the clutch to lift the Golden Harvest past expansion team Pagadian, 80-77, in the National Basketball Conference's southern division opener at the city gym here.

Navales capped his 14-point performance with a layup and a triple as Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Golden Harvest held off a blistering rally by Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers.

Valencia trailed surged ahead, 68-61, behind the heroics of 6-foot-7 Nat Cruz when the Explorers came

came to within three points.

Navales then took charge to give Valencia its first win in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Electric, Molten and Prime Channel.

Cruz led Valencia with 17 points while Cummings chalked up 16 points and 10 rebounds.

The Explorers missed their main gunner, Peter Naron, and coach Michael Orquillas, who were selected to play as imports in the Indonesian Basketball League.

PBA shootout goes to malls

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL Association will give its fans a different summer treat as it stages the first Burlington-PBA summer shootout and cage clinics for kids at SM malls starting April 18 at SM Batangas.

A player from each PBA team will also grace each SM venue during the seven-week run of the event, thus giving the fans the rare chance to meet and greet their favorite PBA stars.

Clinics will also be held as the PBA and SM malls join hands to give the youth a venue where they could hone their talent and skills and keep them busy this summer.

Open to boys and girls aged 9-12, the clinics, organized by the PBA Properties and sponsored by SM Supermalls, Burlington Sports Socks, Burlington Bio Fresh and Burlington Shock XT, Sunbolt, Accel, Toby's and Molten, will be held at 2 p.m.

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

March of docus

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IN AN ATTEMPT TO ENRICH Filipinos' movie-viewing habits by expanding their entertainment repertoire, a local production company is releasing three documentaries this year.

Abroad, documentaries are shown side by side with commercial features as a matter of course, but in the Philippines, docu filmmakers have yet to penetrate the mainstream industry (even if docus are a regular feature on television and in the campus and art-house scenes.)

Two years ago, Ramona Diaz's Sundance-winning documentary "Imelda," released locally by Unitel Pictures, made P25 million at the tills. This proved that an "informative and historical docu can also be entertaining."

"Our company has since been looking for a good follow-up," Unitel president Tony Gloria told INQUIRER Entertainment.

Gloria found it in Frenchman Luc Jacquet's "March of the Penguins," which won Best Documentary Feature at the Academy Awards early this month and earned \$80 million in the United States.

During the last American Film Market held in Santa Monica, Unitel acquired all Philippine rights to "March" from Wild Bunch, the French distributors.

Instead of a subtitled "March" or the English version narrated by Oscar winner Morgan Freeman, Gloria insisted on a "Tagalized" one to be narrated by Filipino actress Sharon Cuneta.

Gloria recounted: "I explained to the Wild Bunch representative that by 'Tagalizing' the docu, we could reach more people. I want as many Filipinos as possible to see this docu because of its beautiful story. The emperor penguins sure beat us humans in the aspect of devotion to offspring. It also teaches viewers respect for the environment."

Chris Martinez—"Bikini Open" scriptwriter and "Zsazsa Zaturmah (Ze Muzikal)" librettist—has been translating "March" for the past two months.

Gloria and Martinez took pains to imbue the script with an emotional wallop. "The poignant narration fits Sharon to a T," Gloria said. "Pinoy na Pinoy. The script will surely touch people's hearts." He said the company was eyeing a May or June play-date.

Health docu

Unitel is also laying the groundwork for a Tagalog version of a six-part health docu special for television.

In the pipeline as well is Diaz's follow-up to "Imelda," which Unitel is co-producing. With the working title "Teacher," this one follows the journey of Filipino teachers recruited for work in inner-city/ghetto schools in Maryland.

Meanwhile, Unitel clinched the worldwide (except US) distribution deal for "Cavite," which won for Fil-Ams Ian Gamazon and Neill Dela Llana the most promising honor at the Independent Spirit Awards.

Gloria reported, "In the US, 'Cavite' was picked up by Mark Cuban who owns not just NBA's Dallas Mavericks but also Landmark, a chain of 185 indie art-house cinemas."

DOT 'poster boy' Marky

BAGUIO CITY—LOCAL TOURISM OFFICIALS are taping "Starstruck Ultimate Survivor" Marky Cielo as one of the Department of Tourism's major endorsers of the Cordillera.

The Mt. Province provincial board also passed a resolution naming Cielo as his native province's "Ambassador for Tourism."

Purificacion Molintas, regional director of DOT, said Cielo would be the perfect endorser for the region's tourism industry because of his Igorot roots. The 17-year-old hails from Bauko, Mt. Province, one of the top tourist destinations in the Cordillera.

"Since Marky is now a star, we are presenting him as one of the best [people produced by the region]. He will be on our list of top endorsers. He will be invited to all of the region's official functions," Molintas said in a forum on Wednesday.

For starters, tourism officials said Cielo would grace the Lang-Ay Festival in Bontoc town on April 7, a highlight of the Mt. Province's 39th founding anniversary celebrations.

Roger Sacyaten, provincial tourism officer, said they were preparing a special show to feature Cielo, who excels in dancing.

Sacyaten said Cielo has signified his intention to wear a G-string during the festival, which will feature a street dancing parade and a cultural showcase of the 10 towns of Mt. Province.

Paulo Pagteilan, provincial administrator,



MARKY Cielo prepared to wear G-string

said Gov. Maximo Dalog had encouraged his constituents to support Cielo in "Starstruck" through text votes.

"The governor himself was very active in supporting Marky," said Pagteilan. "He would ask people, even during informal meetings, to send text votes for the young man." Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Malalad is fourth PBB evictee

By Nini Valera *

EVICTED "PINOY BIG BROTHER CELEBRITY Edition" housemate Gretchen Malalad reunited on Thursday with best pal Aleck Bovick and planned on going to the mall and having a foot spa.

"It was probably not meant to be," Gretchen, 26, told INQUIRER Entertainment, referring to her "discharge" from Big Bro's house 39 days into the reality TV show's run.

Gretchen was the fourth evictee of the celebrity edition of PBB, which ends on April 1.

The first day outside Big Bro's house, Gretchen was met with news (published in INQUIRER on Thursday) that she was facing discharge from the Philippine Air Force where she holds the rank of Airwoman 1st Class. She also faces the loss of her stipend from the Philippine Sports Commission for not being in training and appearing instead in "Pinoy Big Brother."

"I'm happy that I'll be given an honorable discharge from the PAF," said Gretchen. "This means I can go back to the service."

As for her stipend, Gretchen said, "I'm not in training; they have every right to take that away from me."

Gretchen said she receives a monthly al-

lowance of P8,000 from the PSC, and a salary from the PAF as a reserved personnel.

She is a karatedo gold medalist at the Sea Games.

During the INQUIRER Entertainment interview with Gretchen, Aleck was around.

"I want to go to Starbucks," Gretchen told Aleck. "I'm dying for a capuccino." She said she also wanted to watch a movie and get a foot spa.

But Aleck prevailed on her to stay put at least until Friday inside the hotel room where PBB had booked her, prior to guest appearances on various shows on ABS-CBN.

Gretchen spent the day catching up on sleep. Her last task at the PBB house was striking dancer's poses for 24 hours as a music box ballerina. She achieved the task and received five television sets for it.

"I'm going to give the TV sets to the PAF for the barracks," she said.

Had she won in PBB, the PSC was Gretchen's choice to be given the P1 million counterpart of the cash prize.

Asked what her biggest achievement was as a housemate, Gretchen said: "I think I've elevated awareness on the plight of local athletes. I've also given a face to the Filipino soldier."

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Indies top awards given by university-based critics

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

INDEPENDENT FILMS WON THE top honors in annual citations given by two university-based critics'

groups, the Young Critics Circle (YCC) and the Pampelikulang Samahan ng mga Dalubguro (Pasado).

Brillante "Dante" Mendoza's

"Masahista," which won the Golden Leopard at the Locarno International Film Festival in Switzerland last August, swept the YCC—winning Best Film, Best Performance (Coco

Martin), Best Screenplay (Boots Agbayani Pastor), Best Sound and Aural Orchestration (sound engineer Rudy Gonzales, sound designer Nonoy Dadivas and musical direc-

tor Jerrold Tarog), Best Cinematography and Visual Design (directors of photography Timmy Jimenez and Monchie Redoble and production designer Benjamin Paderno) and



COCO Martin in "Masahista"

Best Editing (Nonoy Dadivas and Herbert Navasca).

The YCC awards were announced on Friday.

"Masahista" tied with two other indie films, ufo Pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" and Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga Pusang Gala," for Pasado's Best Film.

Best Director went to Aurora Solito for "Maximo."

Claudine Barretto won as Best Actress for "Nasaan Ka Man"; Aga Muhlach, Best Actor for "Dubai." The Best Supporting Actor and Actress trophies were awarded to John Lloyd Cruz ("Dubai") and Jaclyn Jose ("Masahista").

Michiko Yamamoto cinched Best Story for "Maximo"; Boots Pastor for "Masahista," Best Screenplay (effective use of language); Clarence Sison for "Maximo," Best Editing.

Other Pasado winners are Charlie Peralta of "Dubai" (Best Cinematography); Albert Michael Idioma of "Kutob" (Best Sound); and Von de Guzman of "Exodus" (Best Musical Scoring).

Special awards were given to Peque Gallaga (Natatanging Guro), Nora Aunor (Natatanging Artista) and Richard Gutierrez and Angel Locsin (Gawad Dangal ng Kabataan).

The Pasado awards were given on Wednesday.

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Location	1	2	3	4
G1 GLORIETTA 1	HOUSE OF FURY	V FOR VENDETTA	HOSTEL	SHE'S THE MAN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	DATE MOVIE	HOSTEL	V FOR VENDETTA 2:00, 4:30, 7:40, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
GB1 GREENBELT 1	16 BLOCKS	V FOR VENDETTA		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	SHE'S THE MAN 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	V FOR VENDETTA 2:50, 5:35, 8:20, 11:05 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	16 BLOCKS 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	DATE MOVIE 2:00, 3:40, 5:30, 7:15, 9:00, 10:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	HOSTEL 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	SHE'S THE MAN	V FOR VENDETTA		
	SHAGGY DOG	YOURS, MINE & OURS	HOSTEL	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	V FOR VENDETTA	HOSTEL	PRIDE & PREJUDICE	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	V FOR VENDETTA	HOSTEL		
	HOUSE OF FURY	SHE'S THE MAN	SHAGGY DOG	

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ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Anson's Emporium Exhibit	March 12 to 31, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!	
	Belle Dancing Showdown	March 18, 2006
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Let's give Sandara a second chance

EACH YEAR, SCORES of new talents join TV searches in the hope of becoming showbiz stars. Unfortunately, after some of them make it, they have a hard time hanging on to their hard-earned fame and fortune.

Take Sandara Park. After she did so well on "Star Circle Quest," she became a big teen star with hit TV shows, movies and records to her name. Her gazillions of similarly young fans loved her impish, wacky ways, candid comments, and flair for comedy.

Sandara became so busy that she didn't even have enough time to sleep! But, after some months, she decided to go on home leave in Korea.

Her plan was to stay away for "only" six months, and then resume her career here. People advised her not to leave when she was at the height of her popularity, but she went ahead with her plan.

When we heard that Sandara was taking French leave from her amazing career, we agreed with the naysayers that it wasn't a wise thing to do.

Filipino fans are loyal—but only up to a point. "Out of sight, out of mind" is a saying that's particularly applicable to fans here.

True enough, after Sandara came back from her Korean hiatus, she was surprised to see that some of her fans had already shifted allegiance to newer and younger faves.

These days, the cute and bubbly young star is having a hard time revving up her career again.

We hope that TV and film producers will give Sandara another chance. It's clear that she's learned her lesson, and the fact is that she is still young and talented, and has many perky performances left in her.

Show biz here tends to "punish" recalcitrants who buck its rules, but Sandara is too good and unique a talent to be consigned to pop oblivion. She really deserves a second chance.

Santana's guitar

THIS month, MTV is giving away a new guitar with Carlos Santana's autograph. To join, log on to www.mtv.com.

Closing date for the contest is March 26.

Santana has sold more than 90 million records, performed for more than 100 million people, and won 10 Grammy awards. His latest album, "All That I Am," continues his tradition of diverse influences and innovative musicality.

'Glory Road'

AFTER displaying exceptional range and intensity in films like "A Beautiful Mind," "Sweet Home Alabama" and "Stealth," Josh Lucas stars in "Glory Road." He plays Don Haskins, the passionately dedicated college basketball coach who changed the history of basketball.

A hit in the States, "Glory Road" is based on the inspiring true story of the underdog Texas Western basketball team, whose drive to win super-

loved playing Don because there's so much duality to him. He was complex, intimidating, rip-roaringly funny, and honest to a

fault. He could spew rattlesnake venom, but at the same time he was a totally generous bear of a man who was gracious to

everybody. Don Haskins is a figure of mythic status, not just in America, but around the world, wherever basketball is played."

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

sed some of the most difficult challenges during the turbulent '60s. It was a time when, against all odds, the first all-African-American starting lineup of players took the US by storm, and in a surprising turn of events, won the 1966 NCAA tournament title.

Lucas gained 35 pounds during production to better emulate the famously bear-like body type of Haskins during the latter's coaching days. The actor shares that Haskins is the most interesting and complex character he's ever played.

Lucas elaborates: "I

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HOUSE OF FURY	YOURS, MINE & OURS	SHAGGY DOG
12:00 / 2:00 / 4:40	1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30	12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40
SHE'S THE MAN	CASANOVA	DATE MOVIE
1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20	7:30 / 9:50 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 6:00 / 9:00	1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40 16 BLOCKS 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00

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4 HOUSE OF FURY	SHE'S THE MAN	
1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	12:35 / 3:15 / 5:55 / 8:35	

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ENTERTAINMENT

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ERRATUM: We would like to inform the public that the BARBIE & ROCKSTEADY CONCERT scheduled at March 18, 2006 will be move to April 8, 2006 due to unforeseen circumstances. Thank you for your support.

METRO MANILA

PODIUM	SM CITY FAIRVIEW	SM CITY MANILA
V FOR VENDETTA 12:10 FS / 12:35 MF / 03:20 06:05 / 08:20 LFS 08:50 LMF / 11:05 END SHE'S THE MAN 11:30 FS / 11:55 MF / 02:10 04:25 / 08:40 / 8:30 LFS 09:00 LMF / 10:50 END	CLOSE TO YOU THE DARK BREAKING NEWS 16 BLOCKS FINAL DESTINATION 3 FEARLESS V FOR VENDETTA SHAGGY DOG SHE'S THE MAN HOUSE OF FURY RESERVED RESERVED	V FOR VENDETTA SHE'S THE MAN UNDERCLASS MAN FEARLESS SHAGGY DOG 16 BLOCKS 11:30FS / 01:30 / 03:30 05:30 / 07:30 / 09:15 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:15 END BREAKING NEWS HOUSE OF FURY THE DARK BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE CLOSE TO YOU FINAL DESTINATION 3
SM MEGACINEMA SHE'S THE MAN 03:30FS / 01:50 MF / 01:00 03:10 / 05:20 / 09:20 LFS / 09:40 LMF / 11:30 END HOUSE OF FURY V FOR VENDETTA RENOVATION THE DARK FEARLESS BREAKING NEWS SHAGGY DOG 16 BLOCKS FINAL DESTINATION 3 CASANOVA CLOSE TO YOU	SM CITY STA. MESA V FOR VENDETTA SHAGGY DOG 16 BLOCKS SHE'S THE MAN FEARLESS THE DARK FINAL DESTINATION 3 HOUSE OF FURY CLOSE TO YOU CASANOVA	SM CITY SOUTHMALL V FOR VENDETTA FEARLESS RESERVED 16 BLOCKS HOUSE OF FURY SHE'S THE MAN SHAGGY DOG FINAL DESTINATION 3 THE DARK RESERVED
SM CITY NORTH LDSA V FOR VENDETTA FEARLESS SHE'S THE MAN RESERVED SHAGGY DOG HOUSE OF FURY FINAL DESTINATION 3 16 BLOCKS	SM CITY BICUTAN V FOR VENDETTA CASANOVA THE DARK 16 BLOCKS	SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA V FOR VENDETTA 16 BLOCKS FINAL DESTINATION 3 THE DARK
SM CITY DASMARINAS V FOR VENDETTA CASANOVA BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE AEON FLUX	SM CITY SAN LAZARO FINAL DESTINATION 3 V FOR VENDETTA SHAGGY DOG 16 BLOCKS HOUSE OF FURY SHE'S THE MAN	SM CITY SUCAT SHAGGY DOG V FOR VENDETTA 16 BLOCKS CLOSE TO YOU

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- CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
- GOAL
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- CLOSE TO YOU
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- FIREWALL
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
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- BLOODRAYNE
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LUZON

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- V FOR VENDETTA
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- SHAGGY DOG
- SHE'S THE MAN
- FEARLESS
- CLOSE TO YOU

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- LAST HOLIDAY
- FINAL DESTINATION 3
- AEON FLUX
- V FOR VENDETTA

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO

- CASANOVA
- RESERVED
- BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
- FEARLESS
- V FOR VENDETTA
- UNDERCLASS MAN
- RESERVED
- 16 BLOCKS

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ENTERTAINMENT

Ziyi has no fans in HK

HONG KONG—SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH with a funky Beijing accent. The beaded black and gray Armani outfit she wore to the Oscars was frumpy. She squats on the floor like a farmer when she goes shopping.

So say Hong Kong media, which love to bash Ziyi Zhang, the movie world's hottest young Chinese actress.

Although Hollywood is enthralled with the spunky beauty who starred in 'Memoirs of a Geisha,' Zhang's critics in this movie-mad city enjoy picking her apart. The criticism can be vicious.

"Zhang Ziyi's Armani evening gown made her look so flat-chested it was scary," the Sing Tao Daily said in a headline about the 27-year-old's Oscars appearance this month.

Zhang declined to comment on this. She earlier said the venom had to do with Hong Kongers' deeply entrenched

bias against mainland Chinese, who are viewed as bumpkins and gold diggers.

In an interview with The Sunday Times of London in 2004, Zhang was quoted as saying: "They think, 'How can you be an international movie star? You are only from China.' For them China is just the countryside."

Hong Kong was a British colony for more than 150 years before it was returned to China in 1997.

Disdain

A good example of the disdain for mainlanders is found in a 2004 article about Zhang in Next magazine, a popular weekly glossy. Next printed a photo allegedly showing Zhang squatting down to look at the bottom shelf in a store. A snarky caption read, "Miss Zhang displays the special trait of our motherland's compatriots: spreading her

legs wide and squatting down."

People are often seen squatting in China in such crowded places as railroad stations—where the ground is too dirty for sitting and seats are limited.

Zhang's rapid rise and ongoing success may also feed envy that has made her the favorite dart board for HK newspapers and magazines, whose hyper-aggressive celebrity coverage makes US supermarket tabloids look like National Geographic.

Many of the publications made sure their knives were extra sharp for the Oscars, where Zhang presented the award for Best Editing.

A headline in Apple Daily ripped into Zhang's English: "She didn't pronounce the 'r' in the winning movie 'Crash' properly."

Zhang's performance could have been an ethnic Chinese pride-pumping moment, and that's how it was treated by media in mainland China and Taiwan.

"Zhang Ziyi's English rolls off her tongue," said the Liberty Times, one of Taiwan's three biggest dailies. Another Taiwanese paper, the Min Sheng Daily, said "Zhang Ziyi's English is no longer poor." AP

ZIYI Zhang in "scary" Oscar gown by Armani.

ROUNDUP

Free media!

"TO SPEAK, to utter, to sound off is a right and, if taken away from me, I would feel disconnected from my very spirit and body."

This was the statement of singer Cynthia Alexander, one of 10 women leaders protesting "continuing moves by the government to stifle press freedom and civil liberties even after the lifting of Proclamation 1017."

Isis International-Manila, a women's communication and information NGO, is spearheading the campaign called "Free4All: Keep the Media Free."

Another show biz representative in the movement is actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez, who said: "We cannot claim to exist in a democracy when its potent ally and protector in the form of independent media are stifled."



GUTIERREZ

That's extreme

PAOLO Bediones, Ryan Agoncillo, Joaquin Valdez, Atom Araullo, DJ Russ Davis and event Team Everest Pilipinas members Pastor Emata and Leo Oracion have one thing in common: they like extreme sports.

They found a reason to indulge this passion during the recent Rexona For Men Live Xtreme Billboard, the country's first live stunt-billboard launch.

National Capital Region Police Office Director General Vidal Querol opened the event by jumping from the 160-foot high billboard on the Makati side of Guadalupe bridge crossing the over 220-meter long Pasig River, and landing on the Mandaluyong side.

Members of the SWAT team and professional stuntmen also executed stunts on the billboard.

The event, hosted by Dylan Thomas and Chinggay Andrada, also featured a mini concert by the hottest bands in the country—Spongecola, Pupil, Dicta License, Stone-free, KJwan, Kapatid and Rivermaya.

Swag bag

LOS ANGELES—Actor-director George Clooney, who won the best supporting actor Oscar this year for "Syriana," has donated his luxury items-laden Oscars gift bag for auction to benefit US hurricane victims, a leading charity said Thursday.

The bags, handed out to participants in the annual Academy Awards ceremony, held this year on March 5, are loaded with thousands of dollars' worth of gifts, including an iPod music player, a BlackBerry personal communications assistant, clothing and jewelry. AFP



RYAN Agoncillo

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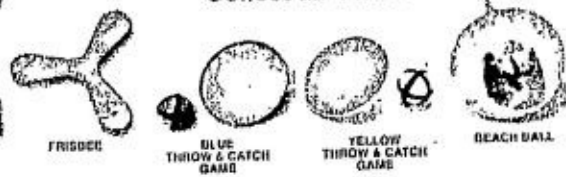
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'Rock Star' returns

And INQUIRER visits
'American Idol' set

LOS ANGELES—IF YOU THOUGHT YOU missed out on the chance to be a rock star like MiG Ayesa, JD Fortune or Marty Casey, despair not.

Variety reports that "Rock Star" will return in summer, this time to discover a lead singer for a new band that Tommy Lee, Jason Newsted and Gilby Clarke—formerly of Motley Crue, Metallica and Guns N' Roses, respectively—are forming. The new group, to be named Supernova, will record an album before it embarks on a concert tour in 2007.

Hosts Dave Navarro and Brooke Burke will be back as hosts of the show, which was a hit in its first season. Fil-Aussie MiG, Marty Casey and JD Fortune topped that search for a new vocalist for INXS, with JD eventually emerging as the winner.

Speaking of "Rock Star," the studio where season one was taped is currently the venue of the latest "American Idol" ("AI") competition. When I attended a taping of "AI" last Tuesday at CBS, I noticed that the large crowd waiting to be admitted into Stage 36 was different from the "Rock Star" crowd.

Entire families

The AI throng spanned more age groups and included entire families. No children under 8 should be admitted but there were kids younger than that who were in line—and allowed in.

The predominantly white, middle-class group

was primed to cheer even before they could get in. A live pre-show, "Idol Tonight," was conducting its loud business as I approached Stage 36. Hosted by Kimberly Caldwell, "AI" finalist, and Rosanna Tavares, a

"Popstars" contestant, "Idol Tonight" was launched by TV Guide Channel on the afternoon that I went.

A guy from the show checked the signs carried by a number of people in line. Two pre-teen girls held on to their posters that screamed "Kellie is the next American Idol" and "Kellie, we love you!" Kellie Pickler is one of several finalists from the South.

Inside, the intimate Mayan-inspired set of "Rock Star" has been replaced by a larger, theater-style setting. The glossy gleam of the futuristic-looking stage, with "American Idol" in white neon light, reminded me of Mac computers. We were seated like packed sardines—the chairs were tied to each other.

A woman's sign stood out among those held high by the excited audience, even before the show began. It read, "Marry me, Ace, or at least give me a birthday hug." Ace Young is the contestant from Denver, Colorado.

Hip-hop music played full blast until this likable guy, who is called Corey, came in to warm up the crowd. Corey also had the task of psyching

up the audience to scream and applaud vigorously in "Rock Star." But instead of having men volunteering onstage to bump and grind, he had kids this time doing wholesome dance moves.

Corey encouraged the crowd to boo the show's resident "villain," judge Simon Cowell, in whom both live and TV audiences have proved that it is possible to love and hate someone at the same time. Simon knows that his catty remarks are part of the show's appeal and he plays the part to the hilt.

I hope Corey finds success as a star in his own right. In the meantime, he went about his thankless job diligently, giving away boxes of "American Idol All Star Challenge DVD Board Game" mostly

ROCK STAR/A3-2



CHRIS Daughtry

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

Exit interview: Melissa McGhee

By Kathryn L. Reyes

IT WOULD'VE BEEN AN OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE, but she forgot the lyrics.

Even hard-to-please judge Simon Cowell had nothing but praise for "American Idol" finalist Melissa McGhee on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

Apparently, however, voting viewers could not forgive her messing up the words of Stevie Wonder's "Lately."

Melissa, 21, told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview that she thought she had gotten away with it after Cowell and the two other judges, Randy Cowell and Paula Abdul, didn't seem to mind.

When the votes came in, the Tampa Bay, Florida, native turned in the lowest number of votes. Completing the bottom three were two other strong contenders, Ace Young and Lisa Tucker.

Unfamiliar

"I was not familiar with Stevie's music at all, and I had only two days to learn the song," Melissa said by way of an explanation.

Melissa—who first auditioned for the second season of AI but didn't make it past the first round—also recounted that the streak of bad luck started with her choice of song. Her first pick was "Ribbon in the Sky," but doubting she could deliver on that one, she switched to "Superstition." Unfortunately, someone else had chosen that. So she settled for "Lately."

In her words: "It was really a big mess."

What percentage of the results might be attributed to the fact that you flubbed the lyrics?

I think it weighed a lot on the actual decision because America is not that forgiving.

Did you ask Stevie for advice (since you messed up in rehearsals, too)?

I should have, but I was just so nervous just to be in his presence.

How did you get
EXIT/A3-4



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Barbie Almas (Mar. 17) Body Heat Bikini Summit (Mar. 25) River Maya (Mar. 28) Metropolis Alabang
Barbie Almas (Mar. 25) Starmall EDSA

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KUH LEDESMA,
CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA
and CHRISTOPHER DE LEON
guest harpist NOELLE CASSANDRA
musical director LOUIE OCAMPO
directed by JOHNNY MANAHAN

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www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARTIST HOUSE
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THE REPEAT

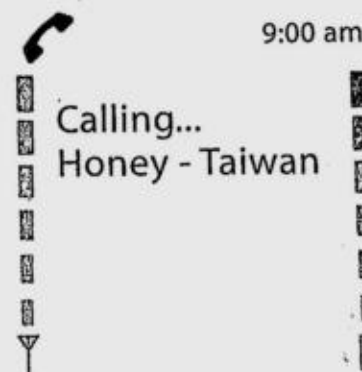
presented by

My Megadolorous Lip

In cooperation with

ALASKA bench play display SONY BMG MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

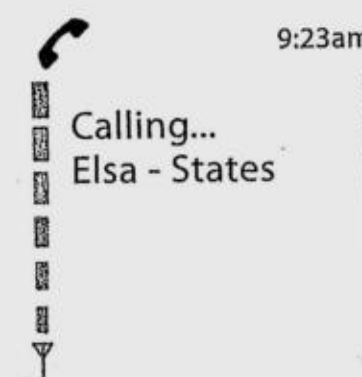
Sa Globe,
p'wedeng ipagsigawan sa mundo
na graduate ka na rin.



9:00 am

Calling...
Honey - Taiwan

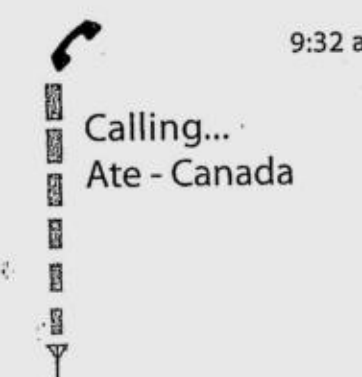
"Graduate na si bunso.
Pati tayo, graduate na rin
sa pagpaparaal."



9:23am

Calling...
Elsa - States

"Tapos na ang kapatid mo. Salamat
at nairaos din namin kayo!"



9:32 am

Calling...
Ate - Canada

"Ate, graduate na pamangkin mo.
Salamat sa mga naitulong mo."

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1	SHAGGY DOG 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:30, 11:00 GP
2	V FOR VENDETTA 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:00 R-13
3	SHE'S THE MAN 12:35, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35 PG-13
4	HOSTEL 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-18

THE MELTDOWN
 OPENS MARCH 29

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HOSTEL
 WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ELI ROTH

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MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or parent.

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HOUSE OF FURY
 THE FAMILY THAT FIGHTS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER
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POWER PLANT CINEMA
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CASANOVA R13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	SHE'S THE MAN PG13 11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25	SHAGGY DOG G 11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15
16 BLOCKS PG13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	HOSTEL R18 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25	V FOR VENDETTA R13 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

Vintage Bazaar
 Summer Chic
 March 18-19
 Rockwell Tent
POWER PLANT MALL

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

TIM ALLEN is

SHAGGY DOG
 Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



RYAN Seacrest takes off Mandisa's shoes.

From page A3-1

to the kids. He and Debbie, the floor director who did the countdown before the cameras rolled, are two faces and voices that the live audiences have become familiar with. People watching at home never get

to see or hear this pair.

Seven minutes before the show went live in the East Coast, Corey introduced the three judges individually, in this order: Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon. The trio walked in to loud cheers. They shook a few hands on the way to their green chairs. "The Dawg" Randy, was in his usual striped shirt (and he wore sandals!) and "Mr. Cow" Simon, came in his "uniform" tee. All three wore jeans. The bodyguards who came in with them were dressed to blend with the crowd.

Host Ryan Seacrest was then called to even louder cheers. He is looking more and more sleek these days, quite a contrast to his early "AI" days when he was a raw talent and looked it. A welcome development is the disappearance of the atrocious shirts and ensembles, giving way to tasteful suits.

Ryan chatted with the judges, which he would do throughout the show whenever he had a chance during the commercial

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 FROM THE CREATOR OF "SCREAM"

VENOM
 HE NEVER HURT A SOUL UNTIL THE DAY HE DIED

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Not Pinoys!

From Natalia Cruz (johnsson_784@hotmail.com), of Wills Hall, Denmark St., Bristol

Please stop being proud of and owning the successes of Americans with Filipino roots. It is not the bloodline, race, and color that makes a Filipino. Melody and Cheryl Burke are Americans—born in America, raised in America. They don't even know the Filipino language.

And where did this come from? "Melody and Cheryl should come to the Philippines and show the world that we are the dancing and singing capital of the world." Nothing they have done comes from anything remotely related to your country. Why should they go there? What career can they aspire for in the Philippines? Hosting a dance show? This is so Pinoy, looking for something to be proud of in other people. How pathetic!

FEEDBACK

Rockstar returns

From page A3-2

breaks. He and Simon, or Simon and Randy may bicker and jeer on-camera but during show lulls, they conversed and laughed together.

When the show began and the contestants were called in, the crowd cheered and applauded enthusiastically and on cue, thanks to Corey's earlier work (he continued to pump up the crowd during the commercial breaks).

Ace got to sing first in this episode, which required the contestants to pick a Stevie Wonder song. One of the burly bodyguards stood up and danced with the crowd.

On their fifth "AI" season (the show continues to grow in popularity, confounding some TV industry observers), the judges have their roles down pat—Paula is the positive one, Randy is often the "voice of reason," while Simon is, well, the bitchy Brit. They may have differing evaluations of the contestant's performances but one thing they have in common (and with Ryan) is that their makeup is retouched at every opportunity. They also trooped backstage whenever possible, with bodyguards and all, and somehow managed to return to their seats in the short span of a few minutes.

Scripted but...

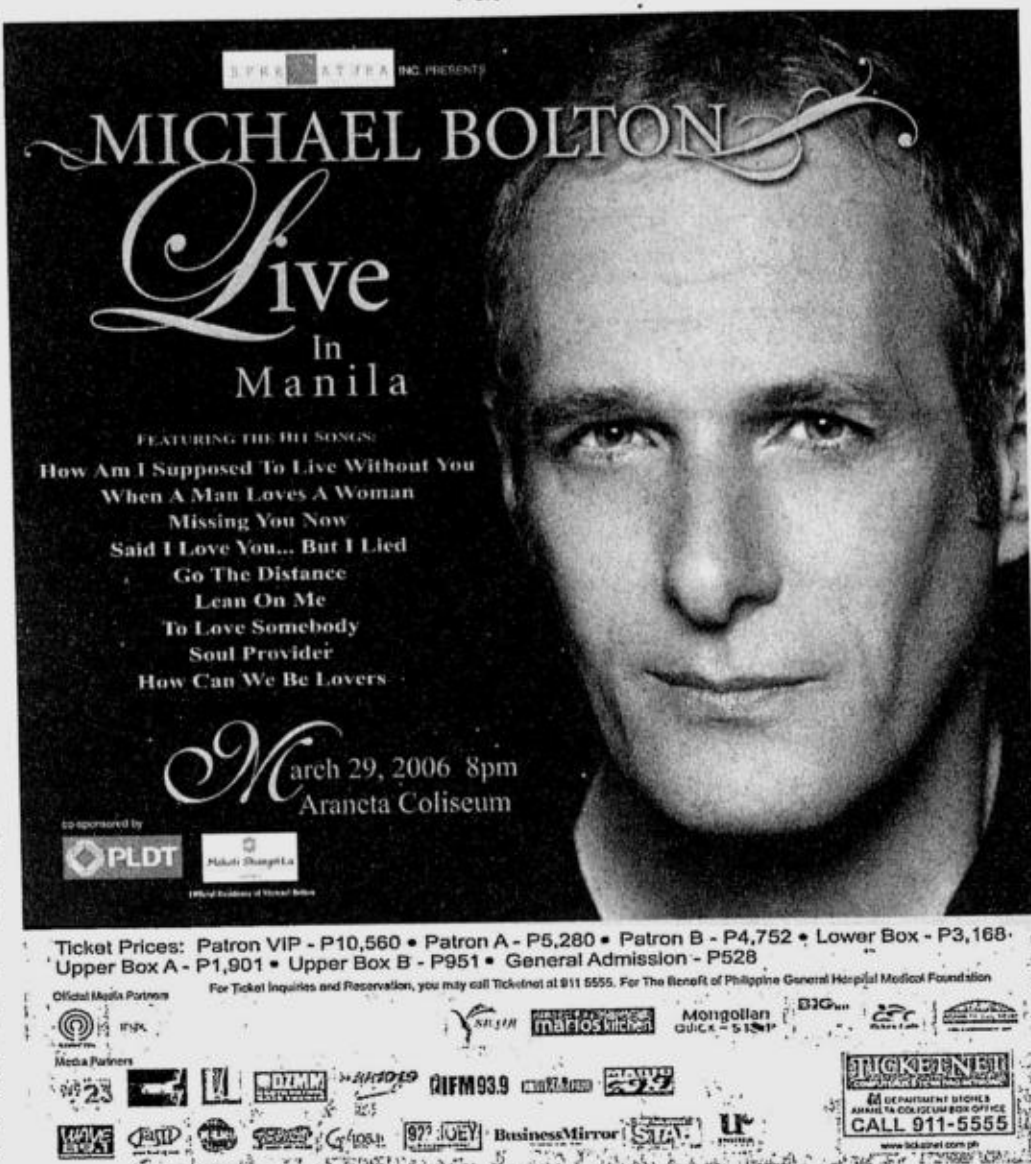
Most of Ryan's lines in the show are scripted. Even the handheld cameras have attached teleprompters from which he reads his spiels. But part of his appeal lies in his spontaneity.

One such instance was when Ryan knelt to take off the shoes of contestant Mandisa after she complained that they were "killing" her. He threw the shoes to the audience. Simon caught one. "AI" should show more of the metrosexual Ryan's goofy charm—his morning radio show here in LA allows much of that candid, humorous quality to shine through.

Anyway, Mandisa did perform sans shoes, after which, when the studio has cut away to commercials, she mouthed to the audience, "Return my shoes."

After watching and hearing the contestants in person, I must say that in addition to Mandisa, these contestants have the stuff to be idols: Katharine "Kat" McPhee (talent, looks and charm—watch for her), Taylor Hicks (resembles George Clooney at first glance and he also has the actor's charisma), Lisa Tucker (a triple threat like Kat), Paris Bennett and Chris Daughtry. But hey, this is "AI" so anybody can win. Who knows, Ace may not only win the title—he may also get the most marriage proposals.

E-mail the columnist at
rvinpales_5585@yahoo.com.



MICHAEL BOLTON
Live In Manila

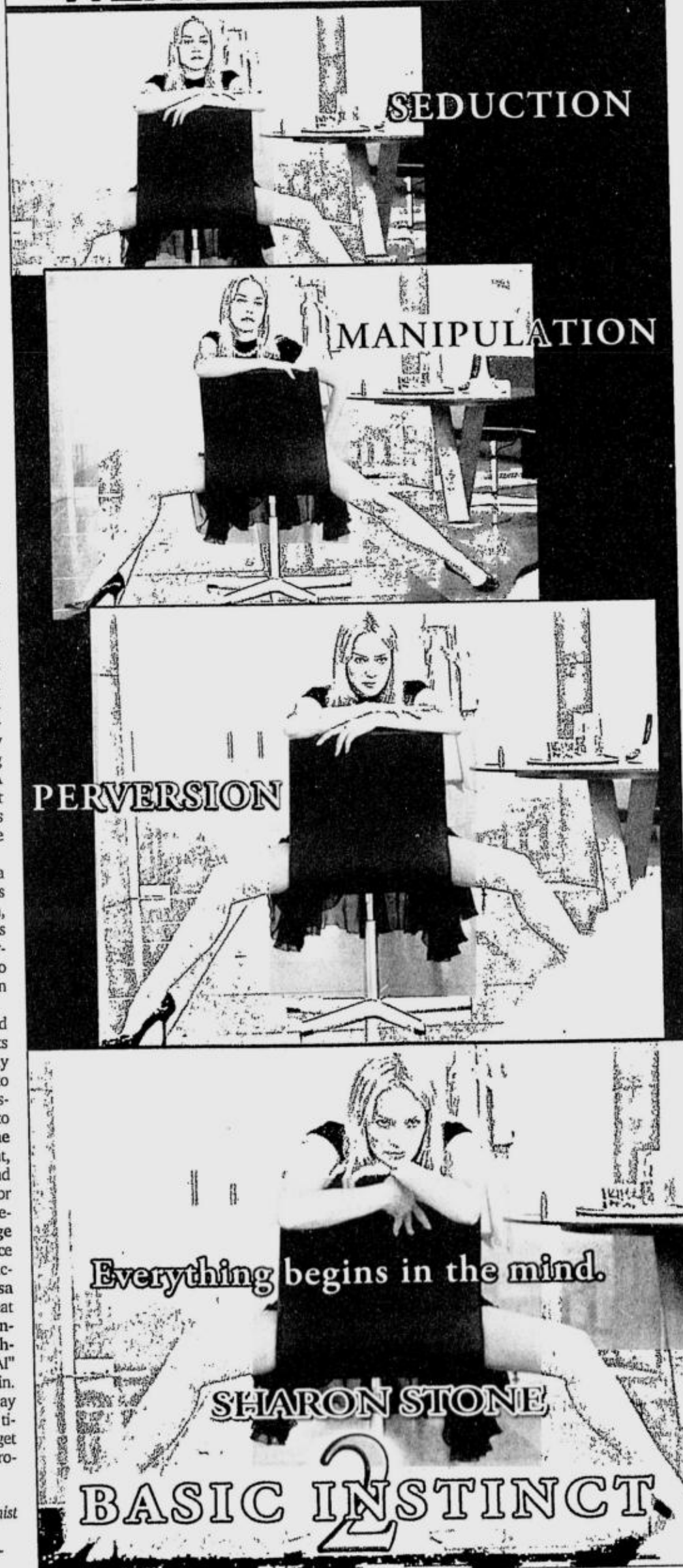
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To Love Somebody
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GALLERIA

632-9118

1 CASANOVA • THX 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	6 SHE'S THE MAN 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
2 V FOR VENDETTA 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00	7 DATE MOVIE 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45
3 HOUSE OF FURY 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	8 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
4 SHAGGY DOG 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	9 16 BLOCKS 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 HOSTEL 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	10 THE DARK 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA

638-7809 to 12

1 V FOR VENDETTA 10:10 12:35 3:40 6:40 9:50	5 HOSTEL 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 THE DARK 16 BLOCKS 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00	6 SHAGGY DOG 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
3 SHE'S THE MAN 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	7 DATE MOVIE 10:40 12:20 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50
4 HOUSE OF FURY 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	

METRO EAST

682-8183 • 682-8199

1 THE DARK 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	5 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE 1:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
2 V FOR VENDETTA 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00	6 SHAGGY DOG 11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
3 HOSTEL 11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05	7 16 BLOCKS 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
4 DATE MOVIE 12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00	8 SHE'S THE MAN 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

NOVALICHES

935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 SHAGGY DOG	4 HOSTEL
2 V FOR VENDETTA	5 HOUSE OF FURY
3 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	

CITISQUARE MALABON

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PIONEER

687-6378

1 FEARLESS	1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 V FOR VENDETTA	2 HOSTEL
3 RESERVE	3 SHE'S THE MAN
4 RESERVE	4 SHAGGY DOG

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(043) 512-5870

1 V FOR VENDETTA	1 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
2 HOSTEL	2 HOSTEL
3 TIGER BLADE	3 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	4 AEON FLUX
5 AEON FLUX	

DASMARINAS

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(046) 416-4332

ANGELES

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1 CASANOVA	1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	2 HOSTEL
3 HOSTEL	3 MURDER
4 V FOR VENDETTA	4 AEON FLUX

IMUS

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(046) 471-8188

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(045) 961-4270

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2 HOSTEL	2 HOSTEL
3 SHAGGY DOG	3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 V FOR VENDETTA	4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
5 LAST HOLIDAY	5 CASANOVA
6 TIGER BLADE	6 V FOR VENDETTA

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1 V FOR VENDETTA	1 V FOR VENDETTA
2 HOSTEL	2 16 BLOCKS
3 NEW WORLD	3 CASANOVA
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	4 HOSTEL
5 MURDER	5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
6 FEARLESS	6 FEARLESS



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A3-4



ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY,
MARCH 19, 2006

How to create
gossip fans

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 V FOR VENDETTA
MTRCB: R-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 LMF

2 SHAGGY DOG
MTRCB: GP
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE

3 HOSTEL
MTRCB: R-18
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

4 SHE'S THE MAN
MTRCB: PG-13
11:35, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15

16 BLOCKS / CRASH

MTRCB PG-13 4 10 9:00 / MTRCB R-13 1 50 6 30

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for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

CERNOBBIO, ITALY—RUMORS THAT HOLLYWOOD sweethearts Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt could marry on the shores of Lake Como this weekend have transformed quiet Italian villagers into star-struck gossip fans.

The weeks-long speculation centers on the lakeside villa of Pitt's friend and fellow actor George Clooney, where the couple were expected to arrive on Thursday, and the nearby luxury hotel of Villa d'Este, once a romantic hideaway for stars such as Ava Gardner and Frank Sinatra. "We don't have any bookings under their or their agents' names, maybe because it will be an intimate celebration," said Villa d'Este spokesperson Antonella Chiesa.

"In any case we're ready to stage a wedding ceremony," she said, sitting on the veranda that the hotel transforms into a white flower-and-candlelight extravaganza for celebrity weddings. Pitt and Jolie have not announced any wedding plans, although she is pregnant with his child.

George Clooney spent last summer on Lake Como and hosted a party at Villa d'Este when he and Pitt filmed blockbuster *Oceans Twelve*.

But on Thursday, little action was happening at Clooney's cream-colored villa at Laglio, a sleepy hamlet nestled between the lake and deep green hills.

Reuters

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX 8th floor Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Telephone: 633-2227 / 6337851 loc. 171 1 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA R13 2 (DOLBY) SHAGGY DOG GP 3 (DOLBY) HOSTEL R18 4 (DOLBY) SHE'S THE MAN PREMIERE 16 BLOCKS / CRASH PG13 / R13	Filinvest 1 (DOLBY) YOURS MINE & OURS 2 (DOLBY) FINAL DESTINATION 3 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE 4 (DOLBY) HOSTEL 5 (DOLBY) SHE'S THE MAN 6 (DOLBY) SHAGGY DOG 7 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 8 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 9 (DOLBY) HOUSE OF FURY 10 (DOLBY) 16 BLOCKS	FASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City tel 687-6963 or 72 1 (DOLBY) SHAGGY DOG 2 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 3 (DOLBY) SHE'S THE MAN 4 (DOLBY) HOSTEL
CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA - R13 2 (DOLBY) SHAGGY DOG - GP 3 (DOLBY) YOURS MINE & OURS - GP 4 (DOLBY) HOSTEL - R18	Blue Wave Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niña, Marikina City tel. 9341927 1 (DOLBY) SHAGGY DOG 2 (DOLBY) HOSTEL 3 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 4 (DOLBY) RESERVED	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) THE NEW WORLD 2 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX 3 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 4 (DOLBY) HOSTEL
starmall (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150 1 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA - R13 2 (DOLBY) SHAGGY DOG - GP 3 (DOLBY) YOURS MINE & OURS - GP 4 (DOLBY) HOSTEL - R18	SUPER CINERAMA Isatam Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228 1 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 2 (DOLBY) HOUSE OF FURY 3 (DOLBY) SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN 4 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 5 (DOLBY) HOSTEL	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) HOSTEL 2 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX 3 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 4 (DOLBY) TIGER BLADE
metropolis star www.clickthecity.com.ph (ALABANG) tel. 8604285, 5433994 1 (DOLBY) THE DARK 2 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 3 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 4 (DOLBY) HOSTEL	Mandalyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856 1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 2 (DOLBY) SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN 3 (DOLBY) TIGER BLADE 4 (DOLBY) RESERVED	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) CRY WOLF 2 (DOLBY) YOURS MINE & OURS 3 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 4 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
THEATRES NE Pacific Mall Cebu Telephone No. (044) 600 3025 1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 2 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 3 (DOLBY) BLOODRAYNE	Maragana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274 1 (DOLBY) HOSTEL 2 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 3 (DOLBY) SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 2 (DOLBY) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 3 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX
PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIC Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 600-6271 1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 2 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 3 (DOLBY) RESERVED 4 (DOLBY) RESERVED	Center Mall Cinema Baguio Center Mall, Magaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346) 1 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 2 (DOLBY) HOSTEL	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE / SYRIANA
Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007 1 (DOLBY) SAW-2 2 (DOLBY) FUN W/ DICK & JANE	Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03 1 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 2 (DOLBY) HOSTEL 3 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX 4 (DOLBY) BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 2 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121 1 (DOLBY) RESERVED 2 (DOLBY) RESERVED 3 (DOLBY) RESERVED 4 (DOLBY) RESERVED	Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489 1 (DOLBY) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 2 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 3 (DOLBY) SYRIANA 4 (DOLBY) CLOSE TO YOU	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 2 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007 1 (DOLBY) SAW-2 2 (DOLBY) FUN W/ DICK & JANE	Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748 1 (DOLBY) FEARLESS 2 (DOLBY) DISKARTE	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE / SYRIANA
Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007 1 (DOLBY) SAW-2 2 (DOLBY) FUN W/ DICK & JANE	Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276 1 (DOLBY) SEX & ZEN 2 (DOLBY) SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN 3 (DOLBY) DAYO 4 (DOLBY) VISIBLE SECRET-1	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE / SYRIANA
Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007 1 (DOLBY) SAW-2 2 (DOLBY) FUN W/ DICK & JANE	Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202 1 (DOLBY) V FOR VENDETTA 2 (DOLBY) SANDAKOT NA KALIGAYAHAN 3 (DOLBY) HOSTEL 4 (DOLBY) THE NEW WORLD	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE / SYRIANA
Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007 1 (DOLBY) SAW-2 2 (DOLBY) FUN W/ DICK & JANE	Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790 1 (DOLBY) AEON FLUX 2 (DOLBY) HOSTEL 3 (DOLBY) BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN 4 (DOLBY) YOURS MINE & OURS	CINEMA 2000 1 (DOLBY) DATE MOVIE / SYRIANA
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MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Exit interview: Melissa McGhee

From page A3-1

through the performance?

It was tough. I just kept going and making up words. I ended up laughing at myself.

Is there a consensus as to who is likely to land on top?

Right now, it's on a week-to-week basis.

Has your publicity from 'Idol' opened doors for future projects?

I'm sure there are plenty out there ... hopefully [there] will be something good.

Last night, Fox cut to a commercial after about 10 seconds of your performance, did you remember the lyrics?

Did I? Last night was my best performance on the show. I remembered all the words, hit all the notes.

Chris Daughtry had strobes and smoke machines—and they gave you a stool.

I don't think they treat anybody better than others. I think that might have been Chris' idea. If you have an idea of how you want to perform on a stage, you can throw it out there and they'll tell you what they think.

Were you surprised to get such positive feedback from the judges?

I was! I thought I was going to be butchered. It was kind of nice to leave the show [that way].

Were you always prepared for the judges' criticisms?

You can't ever try to read Simon's mind, that's for sure.

You earlier said you were in a beauty contest. Which one was that?

I hold the title Miss Sunburst Florida.

What will you miss most about 'Idol'?

The other finalists.

Would you have done anything differently at any point during the competition?

Not at all.

"American Idol" is aired live on Star World Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. (live via satellite) and 8 p.m. (prime time replay). ABC 5 airs it on the same days at 10 p.m.

New family saga this month on Hallmark



MELISSA Gilbert in "Thicker than Water"

"THICKER THAN WATER," HALLMARK Channel's prime pick for March, stars Melissa Gilbert and premieres on March 26 at 9 p.m. Gilbert, from "Little House on the Prairie," portrays hotshot lawyer Natalie Jones who seems to have the world at her feet as she makes her mark in one of California's most powerful law firms. But the death of her father, Judge Charles Jones, leads to an unexpected discovery, a faded photograph of the late judge as a young man in an embrace with renowned rodeo trick rider Maggie Mae Jarrat.

This turns Natalie's life around. As she

soon learns, Maggie Mae was her father's first wife. Natalie uses all her connections to track down the woman in rural Longmont, California. But she finds only Maggie Mae's grave, and Maggie Mae's daughter, Jesse (Lindsay Wagner, The Bionic Woman), who holds the key to bittersweet secrets that Natalie seeks to uncover.

Other Hallmark series this month: "McLeod's Daughters" Season 4 (Mondays, 10:35 p.m.), "Family Law" Season 3 (Tuesdays, 10:35 p.m.), "Judging Amy" Season 4 (Thursdays, 10:35 p.m.), and "Doc Martin" Season 2 (Fridays, 10:35 p.m.).

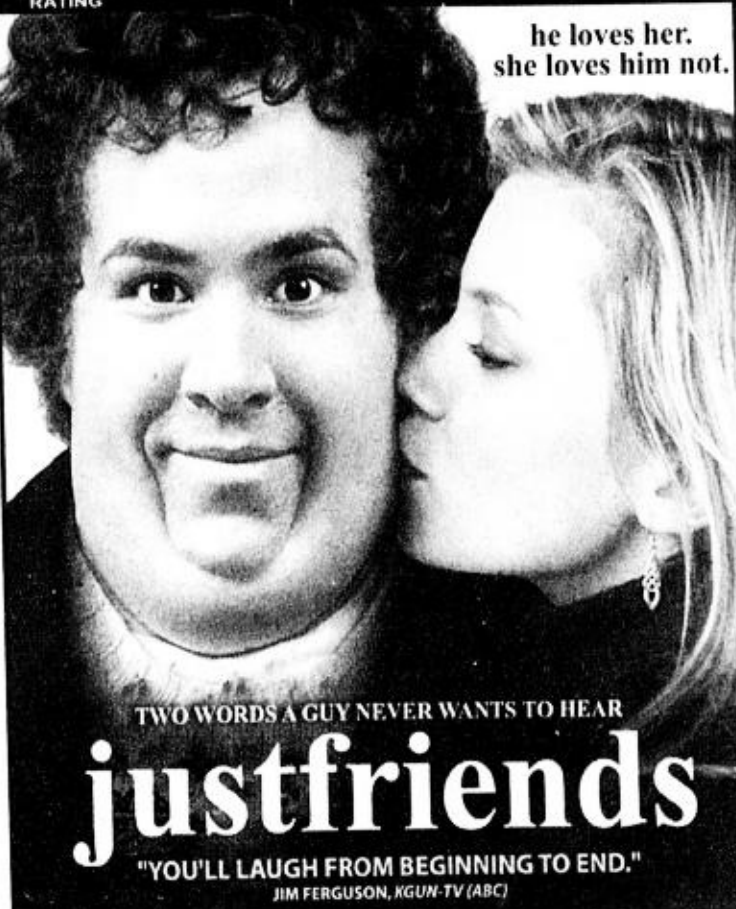
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Inuman Na	Parokya Ni Edgar	inumanna

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

YANG during the 1980s

YANG puts Filipino touch to American franchise

What's it like to have all the burgers you want?

Decades of McDo meals have not made this exec 'supersize'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

GUESS WHAT WAS THE first job of Kenneth S. Yang, president and CEO of McDonald's Philippines?

Bet you thought it was as a crew member at the fast food firm. While he did work at McDo—as the place is popularly called in Manila—Kenneth's young sharp eyes earned him a crucial post in his mom's jewelry store, Kristine Jewelry.

Kristine Yang owns several stores. One of the things she did personally was to sort out precious stones that were used to make earrings, rings, necklaces and bracelets.



YANG today

Kenneth's "job" was created accidentally.

While his mom sorted out the stones, Kenneth, then a young kid, would play on the carpet. One time, he found a tiny diamond and excitedly gave it to his mom.

From then on, his mother would ask him to look for stones on the carpet while she sorted out the stones. And Kenneth says he found quite a few.

As the eldest son of entrepreneur George Yang, Kenneth was always first in line when it came to experiments or grabbing opportunities.

FIRST JOB

When George was negotiating for the franchise of McDonald's, Kenneth was asked to spend a couple of months working at McDonald's Hong Kong on Granville Road, Kowloon side. He was 15.

"I was paid with meals," he recalls. He loved the food, especially the Big Mac and the milk shakes. At the time, McDonald's had not yet opened in the Philippines.

When it did open in Manila in 1981, Kenneth spent many summers working as part of the crew.

He did not mind at that time, since McDonald's was the only firm offering part-time jobs to students. Working for the company was even considered a status symbol then. Most of the workers—like Kenneth and some of his friends—lived in posh villages in Makati.

During the summer of 1982, Kenneth invited his friends to become crew members at the second branch of the fast food company in Cubao.

The friends, which included Gregory Lim, now GM of the firm that produces Mighty Tobacco, and Griffith Go, part owner of Tequila Joe's and CPK, would take the bus on the corner of Edsa and Buendia, get off near the New Frontier theater, and walk to store, before donning their work clothes and buckling down. They were the potato peelers in the "back sink," as the backroom operations were called.

Kenneth recalls the time the fast food firm started operations in the Philippines. They used fresh potatoes which had to be washed, peeled and sliced, then soaked in cold water to remove the starch, and

WHAT'S/B2



YANG during the McDonald's Charities Golf Tournament

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125993, 125

Province puts its best oysters forward

By Michael Sarcauga
PDI Mindanao Bureau

IPIL, ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY—The country's youngest province wants to prove it's cooking something. On Feb. 26, during the province's fifth founding anniversary celebration, Gov. George Hofer led residents in cooking three tons of talaba in a 1.5-km grill that snaked uphill to the provincial hall.

It's the longest, record-breaking talaba grill, sans recognition by Guinness World Records.

But Hofer says "even without recognition, we want to tell the country and the world that we have the longest talaba grill."

Known for being the largest supplier of rubber in the country with around 1.03 metric tons of rubber produced annually, the province also prides itself with having the biggest and best tasting talaba in the country.

Residents lined hot coal on the street and put chicken wire on top as their ingenious method of grilling talaba.

This year, the agriculture office is targeting 100 hectares of coastal areas for talaba (*Saccosnea malabonensis*) farming to meet the demands of buyers.

Provincial agriculturist Adelaida Agum says the province has restaurants from as far as Manila, Cebu and Davao placing orders from the communi-

ZAMBOANGA
Sibugay claims it produces the biggest talaba



ties that grow talaba.

"Our famous talaba customer is Ramon Fernandez for his restaurant in Cebu City. He regularly orders 200 kilos a week," Agum tells INQUIRER.

If not for a desperate fisherman who wanted to improve life by venturing into growing talaba, there would be no succulent, briny talaba delicacy in Sibugay.

Because fishing was not enough to feed the family of nine, Roberto Ballon brought talaba spats (the agriculture office calls it talaba seedlings) from Dapitan sometime in 1999 and tried to grow it on muddy and brackish coastal waters in the village of Concep-

cion in Kabasalan town.

Traditional farming method requires buying materials but because of lack of money to buy for it, Ballon put the spats on the muddy estuary in his village. After six months, the spats grew to become giant talaba that would measure to a foot long.

It was a stroke of luck that led him to discover a new method of talaba farming that earned him several local, regional and national recognition for his "innovative farming techniques," says Agum.

Ballon is a recipient of Gawad Quedanor 2005 Outstanding Self-Reliant Team for Oyster Cultivation, a national

recognition given to exemplary farmers. He also received the National GawadSaka Presidential Award.

Ballon's success inspired Hofer to create the Talaba Festival, held during its founding anniversary, "to inspire local farmers, to attract buyers and to promote tourism in Sibugay."

Agum says the abundant estuaries found in the province provide right combination of saltwater and freshwater which is needed to grow giant oysters.

"Talabas thrive on plankton and mineral deposits in coastal areas for food," Agum tells INQUIRER, "and they grow faster

and are best-tasting during rainy season."

Agum says floods, which carry minerals to the sea, provide food for plankton and oysters.

The only threat to talaba culture is environmental pollution. Toxic chemicals from upland farming pose threat to the coastal farming.

Ballon and other members of his association, the Kahugpungan sa Gagmayng Mangingisda sa Concepcion (KGMCC) (Association of Small-time Fisherfolk of Concepcion), are conducting regular seminar on "Integrated Environmental Awareness on Farming" to all upland and coastal farmers to preserve the ecology of the natural resources.

"Since we are vulnerable to toxic by-products in the farm inputs of upland farming, we are aggressively conducting seminars to inform upland farmers on the damage of chemicals to coastal resources," Ballon said.

Aside from the awareness drive, Ballon says, oysters are periodically inspected by specialists to determine if there is "paralytic shellfish poisoning" or red tide, the only menace that poses great threat to talaba farmers.

But the provincial agriculture office said since talaba farming started, it has not received any report of red tide pollution in the coastal waters.



YANG looks forward to further expanding reach of McDonald's.

What's it like to have all...

From page B1

blanched before frying. They used peelers and slicers.

Kenneth says the slicers were heavy and could make your arms ache.

McDonald's has since changed its method for French fries, relying now on imported frozen, ready to fry ones. This is because, as Kenneth explains, at peak hours, the old method of peeling and slicing would not be enough to meet the demand.

Also, the quality of local potatoes was not consistent, he added.

Kenneth continued to work as part of the McDonald's crew during summers. As the fast food firm expanded, he also moved to different places. He spent a couple of summers in Greenhills when he was in college.

That time, he was paid with hard currency, although he can not recall how much he got for an hour of work. But he states: "My pay was valuable to me. I value working."

Although what really created an impact on him was not the job nor the money but the chance "to interact with different kinds of people."

"I had a sheltered upbringing and was a very shy kid," Kenneth says.

After finishing Management Engineering at the Ateneo, Kenneth was, of course, hired at McDonald's as a management trainee. Kenneth went on to pursue an MBA at the University of Chicago in the United States, and became managing director of the firm in 2003.

He pointed out that he did not become managing director because his father owned the firm. At that time, he says, McDonald's was a joint venture between the US firm and the Yongs.

"There were a number of expats (at the firm) prior to my appointment," he says. "But I was happy I was appointed managing director. It was proof that the organization has confidence in me."

In December last year, the Yongs bought out the shares of the US firm so now, they solely own the McDonald's franchise in the country. In January this year, George Yang, after nearly 25 years of heading the fast food business, decided to transfer the burden to eldest son Kenneth, making him the firm's president and CEO.

According to Kenneth, the US partners decided that the Philippine market was mature enough and could be left on its own. It will be recalled that the Philippines posed a unique market for the US firm. McDonald's eventually had to succumb to local tastes and culture by creating dishes that are not served in the US branches. Spaghetti at McDonald's, for instance, is only available in the Philippines.

Kenneth's tasks today include continuing expansion, and increasing the percentage of McDonald's franchisees, currently at 40 percent, compared with company owned stores. He adds that they are willing to sell existing company owned stores to interested franchisees.

He says that while getting a McDonald's franchise remains a good investment, "this is not a short pay back business... it's a stable long-term business."

But his most important task is still to bring up sales. Based on data PDI Research gathered from the Securities and Exchange Commission, McDonald's, via the Golden Arches Development Corp., posted losses amounting to P594 million and P23 million in 2001 and 2003, respectively. However, in 2004, it posted substantial profits of P343 million.

"To bring up sales, you have to think about the organization," the young CEO points out. "You rely heavily on people, and they deserve the credit for good sales."

With 251 branches nationwide, McDonald's Philippines employs about 15,000 people, including part-time workers.

On a personal note, Kenneth says he has never thought of going into another line of business on his own. He knows early on that he would be devoting much of his time to McDonald's.

Kenneth is unlike his siblings. Brother Richmond owns SuperBowl and is a partner in Chili's. Christopher, another brother, is in charge of the firm Fun Characters Inc., which makes the freebies that go with the McDonald's Happy Meals. They have another sister who is in the United States.

Kenneth is married to Cindy Yap and they have three children. The family eats at McDonald's three to four times a week. But Kenneth has to go around the different stores in the country, grabbing his favorite double cheeseburger and hot fudge.

After 25 years of McDonald's meals, Kenneth's physique has not changed. He says he keeps fit these days by going to the gym three times a week.

Fresh flower arrangement seminar

LET YOUR CREATIVE JUICES flow and make something with your own hands—fresh flower arrangement, at the same time earn extra cash. Every year, more people get into this business because it seems quite easy and a whole lot of fun to do.

In line with the government's objective to give livelihood for those who would like to earn extra income, the Golden Treasure Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on fresh flower arrangement to be held at the Vermont Blooms

Unlimited 9 Anonas Rd., Proj. 3, Quezon City on March 25, 2006 Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, costing, flower shop operation. There will be a hands-on experienced on how to make

long and low arrangement (presidential, casket, couples, table, pillar, etc., round arrangements (centerpiece, isles, foliage etc.) facing arrangement (standing, altar, inauguration, etc.) and romantic bouquet (mother's day, love ones, all occasions,

etc.)

Participants will receive certificate of training right after the seminar. Lunch and snacks will be served and all the materials will be provided. For questions call 952-40-28 / 952-29-34 / 436-78-26 / 951-29-66 and 913-65-51.

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LA: 299sqm. F.A.: 135sqm.
Lot 3973-B-3-B-2-C-5-D Subd.
Road No. 15, Kalikid Sur.
Minimum Bid Price: 994,860.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 1,141sqm.
Lot 4 Arenas St., Brgy. Mayapaan.
Minimum Bid Price: 692,800.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 268sqm.
Lot 50 #271 Brgy. Kalikid Sur.
Minimum Bid Price: 171,000.00

LOT 4 - VACANT LOT
LA: 311sqm.
Lot 1556-A-2-M, Existing Road, Brgy. Samon.
Minimum Bid Price: 66,087.50

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
LA: 739sqm.
Lot 1063-B Undeveloped Road, N.S. Garcia.
Minimum Bid Price: 531,900.00

LOT 6 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180sqm.
Lot 44 Bldg 9 #74 Apo St., Mabini Homesite, Brgy. Palupod.
Minimum Bid Price: 324,009.00

LOT 7 - VACANT LOT
LA: 317sqm.
Lot 3973-B-3-B-2-C-5-D Subd. Road No. 15, Kalikid Sur.
Minimum Bid Price: 333,887.00

LOT 8 - VACANT LOT
LA: 305sqm.
Lot 10 Brgy. Rd., Patalac.
Minimum Bid Price: 32,300.00

LOT 9 - VACANT LOT
LA: 207sqm.
Lot 4 Bldg 14 Iroville Subd., San Isidro.
Minimum Bid Price: 242,100.00

LOT 10 - VACANT LOT
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 28 Bldg 23, 9th St., Bldg. 23 Kap Pepe Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 592,800.00

LOT 11 - VACANT LOT
LA: 324sqm.
Lot 7 Prov Rd Brgy. Barlig.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,231,200.00

LOT 12 - VACANT LOT
LA: 467sqm.
Lot 1886-E-8 Alley, Brgy. Padre Crisostomo.
Minimum Bid Price: 294,300.00

GAPAN

LOT 13 - VACANT LOT
LA: 686+405+585+372=1948 sqm.
Lot 2, 3922, 1, 3925 Brgy. San Lorenzo Poblacion, Gapan City.
Minimum Bid Price: 6,063,000.00

GEN. NATIVIDAD

LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
LA: 965sqm.
Lot 124 Brgy. Mataas Na Kahoy.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

Gen. Natividad

Minimum Bid Price: 244,800.00
LOT 15 - VACANT LOT
LA: 299.00 sqm.
Lot 3537-A-9 Brgy. Mataas Na Kahoy, Gen. Natividad.
Minimum Bid Price: 38,199.00

LOT 16 - VACANT LOT
LA: 320.50 sqm.
Lot 3537-A-1 Brgy. Mataas Na Kahoy, Gen. Natividad.
Minimum Bid Price: 40,863.75

LOT 17 - VACANT LOT
LA: 299.00 sqm.
Lot 3537-A-8 Brgy. Mataas Na Kahoy, Gen. Natividad.
Minimum Bid Price: 38,199.00

LOT 18 - VACANT LOT
LA: 299.70 sqm.
Lot 3537-A-4 Brgy. Mataas Na Kahoy, Gen. Natividad.
Minimum Bid Price: 38,211.75

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
LA: 299.60 sqm.
Lot 3537-A-5 Brgy. Mataas Na Kahoy, Gen. Natividad.
Minimum Bid Price: 38,199.00

GUIMBA

LOT 20 - LOT WITH MARSHES & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 321sqm.
Lot 1296-Blind P Ramos St.
Minimum Bid Price: 45,200.00

LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
LA: 314sqm.
Lot No. 3782 Brgy. Kulung.
Minimum Bid Price: 136,000.00

LUPAO

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
LA: 47,580sqm.
Lot 2100 Brgy. Sto Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 156,000.00

MUNOZ

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
LA: 783sqm.
Lot 1672-J Mahadika Hwy.
Minimum Bid Price: 997,900.00

PENARANDA

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 7,798sqm.
Lot 3588 Parida St., San Josef.
Minimum Bid Price: 701,400.00

RIZAL

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 13 Bldg 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 49,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 14 Bldg 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 49,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 312sqm.
Lot 15 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 49,920.00

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 6 Bldg 1 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA: 300sqm.
Lot 5 Bldg 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 6 Bldg 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 10 Bldg 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 5 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 8 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 10 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 12 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 315sqm.
Lot 18 Bldg 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 50,400.00

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 323sqm.
Lot 13 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 52,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 292sqm.
Lot 1 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 46,720.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 328sqm.
Lot 14 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 52,800.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 374sqm.
Lot 17 Bldg 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 60,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 14 Bldg 4 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 471sqm.
Lot 18 Bldg 4 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 75,300.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 403sqm.
Lot 3 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 54,800.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 436sqm.
Lot 15 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 69,760.00

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 637sqm.
Lot 16 Bldg 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 101,920.00

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA: 300sqm.
Lot 4 Bldg 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT

LA: 300sqm.
Lot 7 Bldg 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 3 Bldg 4 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

SAN ANTONIO

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 792sqm.
Lot 32 Bulran, San Antonio.
Minimum Bid Price: 99,250.00

SAN JOSE

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 165sqm.
Lot 1635-B-1 #37 Cadit St.
Minimum Bid Price: 470,250.00

LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 327sqm.
Lot 15 Sto. Nibol, Brgy. A Pascual.
Minimum Bid Price: 227,200.00

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT
LA: 191sqm.
Lot 8 Bldg 13 Christianville Subd., Abat I.
Minimum Bid Price: 326,800.00

STA. ROSA

LOT 53 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 9,816sqm.
Lot 27 Sto. Pagsa, Brgy., Mapalad.
Minimum Bid Price: 837,000.00

LOT 54 - VACANT LOT
LA: 2,500sqm.
Lot 2727-C-2-A Brgy. Mapalad.
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

STO. DOMINGO

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 979+3120+4099 sqm.
F.A.: 280sqm.
Lots 2236-C & 2234 Brgy. Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,063,250.00

LOT 56 - VACANT LOT
LA: 612sqm.
Lot 11 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 364,140.00

LOT 57 - VACANT LOT
LA: 646sqm.
Lot 12 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 384,370.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
LA: 678sqm.
Lot 13 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 403,410.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
LA: 710sqm.
Lot 14 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 422,450.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
LA: 752sqm.
Lot 15 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 447,440.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
LA: 6077+10057=16134 sqm.
Lot 2160 & Lot 2159 Brgy., Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 459,800.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT

LA: 1,080sqm.
Lot 21 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 128,250.00

LOT 63 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,143sqm.
Lot 22 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 135,731.25

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,206sqm.
Lot 23 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 143,212.50

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,269sqm.
Lot 24 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 150,893.75

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,332sqm.
Lot 25 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 158,175.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,397sqm.
Lot 26 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 165,893.75

LOT 68 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,459sqm.
Lot 27 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 173,256.25

LOT 69 - VACANT LOT
LA: 792sqm.
Lot 1 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 526,680.00

LOT 70 - VACANT LOT
LA: 475sqm.
Lot 2 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 118,370.00

LOT 71 - VACANT LOT
LA: 346sqm.
Lot 3 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 92,036.00

Cavite coffee industry gets brewing

From page B4

val has greatly influenced the increase in the selling price of coffee in the country. From P20 a kilo in 2002, the average trading price is now P68.

The event has helped boost coffee production in Cavite from 500 tons in 2003 to 950 tons last year.

Ambagan says the festival has also successfully brought together farmers, capitalists and business firms in a joint effort to save the coffee industry. And it has prompted farmers to develop new planting techniques.

The event also proved to be helpful in pushing the academic community and government agencies to find ways to help farmers increase their yield.

Moreover, the festival prompted President Macapagal Arroyo to create the Presidential Task Force on Coffee Rehabilitation during her speech at the first Pahimis in February 2002.

This eventually gave birth to the National Coffee Development Board, a multi-sectoral group that oversees initiatives in the revival of coffee farming in the country, which covers 22 other growing provinces.

Vibrant market

Pacita, San Juan, owner of Figaro coffee shop, says she had witnessed the festival's effect on coffee farming in Amadeo.

"It's very heartening to see that farmers are now going back to their farms," San Juan says.

"They now see a vibrant market. They see alternative markets, like specialty coffee shops."

San Juan says the mushrooming coffee shop chains from other countries do not pose a threat to local growers. She says these should instead push farmers to better the quality of their produce and inspire them to outdo the quality of imported coffee beans.

She says the Philippines consumes about 6,000 tons of coffee annually, but it only produces half of the consumption. The country spends about P200 million to import the remaining half.



A FLOAT to mark coffee's ascendancy in the province.

Figaro has set up two model farms in Amadeo as support to the local government's "adopt a farm" program. A two-hectare farm was meant to inspire farmers to plant "Kapeng Barako" or Liberica, which sells at P80 a kilo.

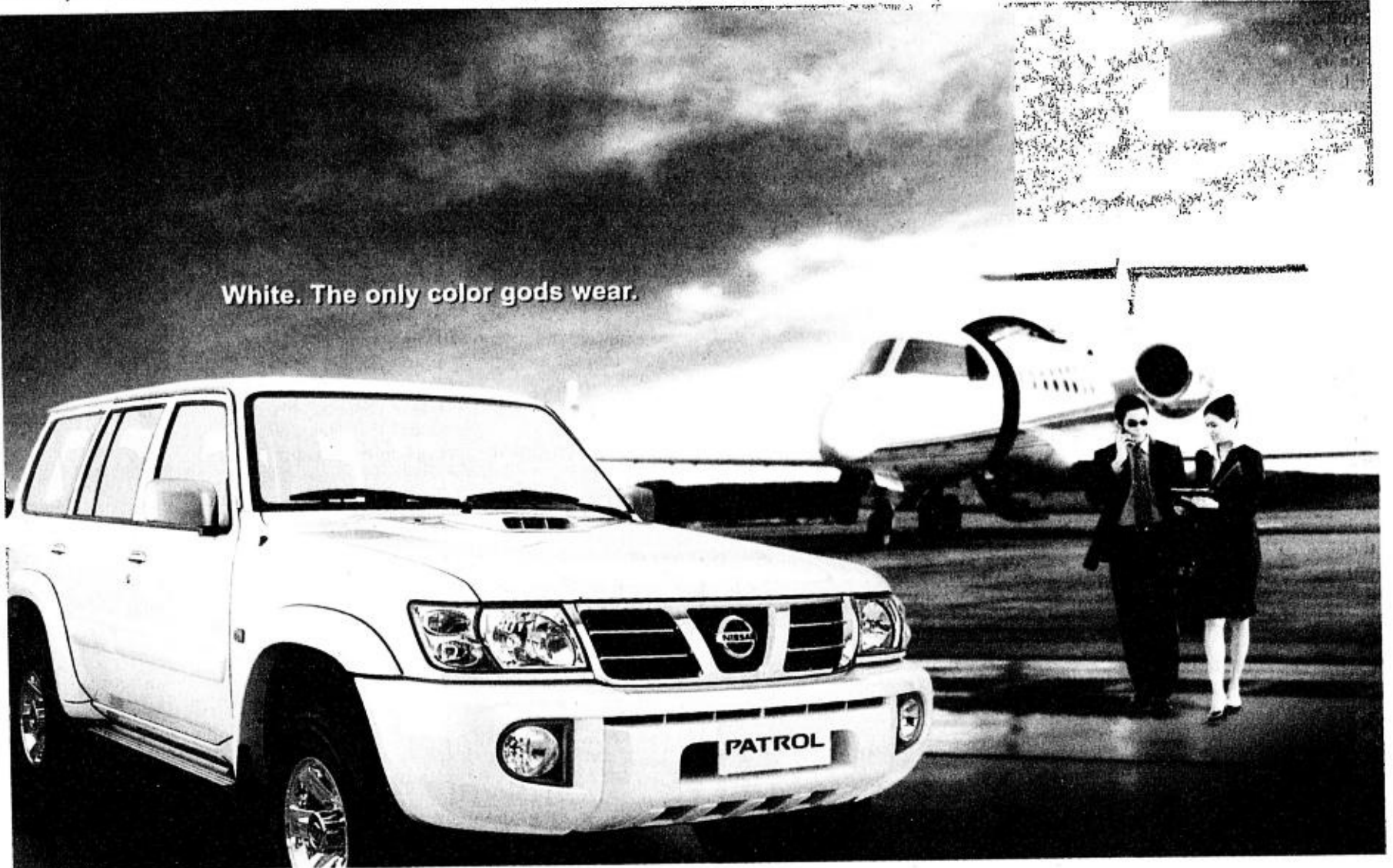
Most of the farms here are planted with Ro-

busta.

Another three-hectare pilot farm is devoted to organic coffee farming, which, San Juan says, has a very bright future.

San Juan said there is a great demand for organic coffee in Europe. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Sunday BIZ

Cavite coffee industry gets brewing

AMADEO, CAVITE—WHEN PRICES for coffee beans in the local market went as low as P20 per kilo in the late 1990s, farmer Romulo Baybay, 55, thought of selling his one-hectare coffee farm in Barangay Halang here.

For three consecutive years, he says, coffee farmers in the town had incurred losses due to the steep costs of farm inputs and reduced selling prices.

Baybay says the moribund state of coffee farming forced them to shift to planting fruits

and vegetables, which proved to be more financially rewarding.

Some, he says, cut their coffee trees and sold them as driftwood for orchid growers or materials for furniture.

The problem led to the decline of lands devoted to coffee not only in Amadeo but also in the whole Cavite province, which then ranked second to Davao as the country's top coffee-producing province.

Farmers sold their properties to subdivision developers and

other commercial buyers.

From more than 16,000 hectares in the 1970s, there are now only 9,500 hectares of lands planted with coffee in the province.

Half of the country's 160,000 hectares of coffee farms were also converted to other purposes.

Festival

This condition prompted Cavite Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi to ask the private sector in 2002 to help revive the dying coffee in-

dustry in Amadeo.

Maliksi tasked Amadeo town to spearhead the revival of coffee farming as the town is the largest coffee producer in Cavite, with more than 4,500 hectares of coffee farms.

Riding on the festival bandwagon, Amadeo Mayor Albert Ambagan thought of a series of programs that would recoup the farmers' interest in planting coffee.

The Pahimis Festival was born. Pahimis, a local term for



AMADEO holds Pahimis festival to raise coffee awareness MARLON RAMOS

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thanksgiving, is aimed at rekindling not only the interest of coffee farmers in Amadeo but also the rich culture and tradition of coffee farming in the country. It is held to coincide with the town fiesta every third week of February.

"We usually give part of our harvest as pahimis to our neighbors who help us during the harvest season. It is also meant to invite luck in the next cropping season," Ambagan relates.

He says they believed that "reviving the culture of coffee farm-

ing and our farmers' passion for it" was very critical in reviving the industry.

"We want the festival to help not only the farmers in Amadeo but also in the whole Philippines, which used to be a top coffee exporter in the 1970s," he said.

This year's Pahimis was held last Feb. 24-26 and attracted more than 5,000 visitors from all over the country.

Gains

For five years now, the festi-

CAVITE/B3

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Philam Fund, Inc.	P 10,000.00	14.78%
Philam Bond Fund, Inc.	P 5,000.00	12.28%
Philam Dollar Bond Fund, Inc.	US\$ 2,000.00	8.34%
GSIS Mutual Fund, Inc.	P 5,000.00	13.85%

Past performances are not indicative of future results. The funds' performance may fluctuate.

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*Source: Business World Top 1000 Corporations • 2005 TOP LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES OF THE PHILIPPINES
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Text us your feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

CELEBRATING WOMEN

Pinays show 'em who's the boss

An Asian survey by MasterCard shows women in the Philippines have nearly achieved socioeconomic parity with the men

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

FIRST, THE GOOD NEWS because we are in dire need of one: Women in the Philippines have shown the closest indication of achieving socioeconomic parity with men, according to the 2006 MasterCard International Women's Advancement (MiWA) released by MasterCard International in time for International Women's Day last week.

What does this mean in English? That Pinays are on their way to being equals of Filipino men in business and society. Not at par with the guys, let's be clear about this, but they're getting there.

"It's only a matter of time," said Georgette Tan, MasterCard's vice president of communications for Asia-Pacific, who presented the index to a group of Asian journalists invited to Singapore for the briefing.

This bit of good news has interesting implications, of course.

For one, a nation struggling with rumors of rebellion and realities of censorship—under a female head of state at that—has topped 12 other countries in this study, scoring 90.9 against an index of 100, where 100 represents complete gender equality in labor force, tertiary education, managerial positions and above-median income. With the four indicators, a score under 100 indicates gender inequality in favor of males while a score above 100 indicates inequality in favor of females.

While the Philippine results are not a perfect 100, Pinays are pretty close to being equal to the other sex. The MiWA for affluent Japan is only 46.08, which surprises no one who has seen "Memoirs of a Geisha." Even the overall index of 75.66 for the Asia-Pacific region is 15.24 lower than RP's.

And if you need a more concrete proof of this ferocious female force in Filipino society, just recall how all the machos in the Legislature and the so-called coup plotters in uniforms have been frustrated in ousting the Woman on Top.

No longer ignored

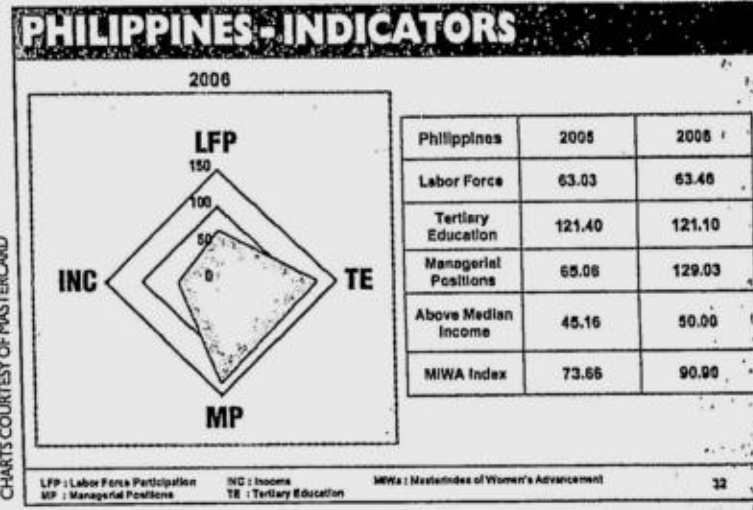
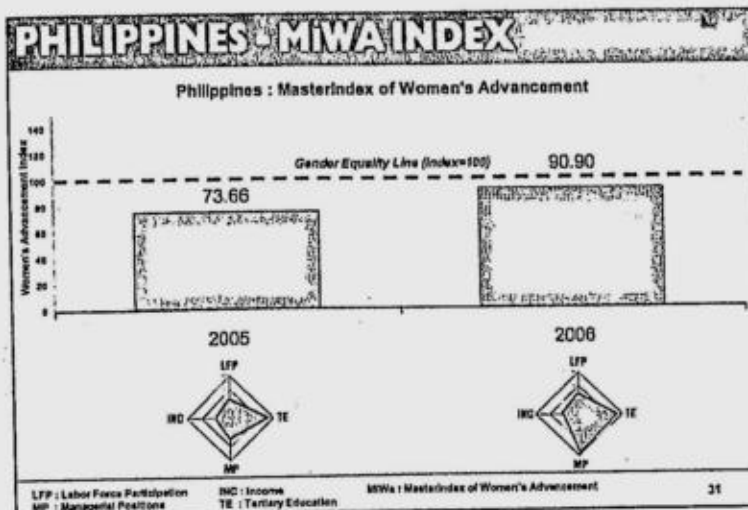
The MasterCard study also implies that the usually ignored Philippine market must be robust enough to be included for two years now among the Asian countries surveyed by this leading global brand in charge-card service. And this, of course, gives us hope.

You know how everybody is saying Vietnam has edged the Philippines out? Well, the MiWA did not even bother with Vietnam in 2005. But lest we become too complacent, take note that, this year, Vietnam is in. The others surveyed are Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,

PINAYS/C2



HEAR ME ROAR: Economics editor Pam Woodall and development sociologist Sharon Siddique flank MasterCard VP for communications for Asia-Pacific Georgette Tan at the MasterCard briefing luncheon at the Grand Hyatt in Singapore.



Salamat, Inay.

Itong diploma ko
ay narapat lang
na ihandog sa iyo.

Di biro ang pang-tuition
na iyong pinag-ipunan,
mga gabing di halos tinulugan,
pagmamahal na kailan man
ay di nagkulang.
Sa mga sakripisyo
mong di mapapantayan.

Kaya alay sa lahat ng nanay,
Blue Bay Tuna.

Mula sa sariwang tuna kaya
manamis-namis, malinamnam
sa halagang abot-kaya.

Ganyan magmahal pag Nanay ka.

Pinays show 'em who's the boss

The numbers game

- ♀ In the US, the share of employment between men and women in 1920 was 80-30 in favor of men. Women's employment rate rose steadily in 20 years and has more than doubled so that now the ratio is almost 50-50.
- ♀ For every 100 employed men in East Asia, there are 80 employed women. In South Asia, there are only 50 women.
- ♀ Women are bigger than China as an economic power. Working women contributed US\$8 trillion to global GDP productivity from 1970-2005. China's contribution is only US\$3 trillion. Male labor accounted for only US\$4 trillion.
- ♀ Sweden has the highest ratio of female to male participation in university education, followed by the United States and the United Kingdom.
- ♀ Norway has the most number of female directors of corporations, but even there only 20 percent of the total number of directors are female. Following Norway are Sweden and US, respectively.
- ♀ Fortune 500 companies where women made up 20 percent or more of top management showed higher average return on equity from 1996-2000. Female managers are good for profits.
- ♀ On a scale of 1-7, 7 being the score of maximum equality between men and women, Sweden scored the highest at 5.5, followed by Canada (4.9), UK (4.8), Germany (4.6), France (4.5), the US (4.4). China is at 4 and India, at a little over 3.

Source: "Womenomics: The Increasing Importance of Women as Drivers of Global Growth," study presented by Pam Woodall, Economics Editor of The Economist

- ♀ The female population is substantial in China (over 600 million), India (over 540 million) and the US (150 million) and Indonesia (110 million).
- ♀ Women live longer, healthier lives. Female age profiles show a distinct difference for Japan, which has the most number of women over the age of 80 and over the age of 60 worldwide. In the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia, most women are in the 15-49 age group.
- ♀ Lower fertility rate correlates with higher literacy rate. In South Korea and Singapore, where the literacy rate is highest, the fertility rate is lowest. In Cambodia where the literacy rate is less than 80 percent, the fertility rate is close to five.
- ♀ The proportion of women in Parliament is highest in Vietnam—27 percent. Nowhere in the world has it reached 50 percent of Parliament. Philippines is only slightly over 15 percent. But Asia has the most number of female heads of state.
- ♀ In the US, women dominate managerial and professional positions. But they form only a small minority at the very top. There are only eight women CEOs in the Fortune 500 companies. They dominate the lower part of the pyramid at the top. They are rising but when they get to a certain level, they still bump the glass ceiling.
- ♀ Japan has the lowest female representation on company boards. Of 43,115 directors, only 0.2 percent are women.
- ♀ New Zealand and Australia have the lowest gender gaps in Asia. Among 58 countries, New Zealand is No. 1 in political empowerment of women and No. 11 in female educational attainment. Japan is No. 3 while Malaysia ranks 15th in women's health and well-being. Thailand is No. 1 in economic participation of women.
- ♀ There are nine Asians among the Wall Street Journal's top 50 women for 2005. A woman is chair of a steel corporation in China. The president of BMW Tokyo is a woman. The president and financial officer of PepsiCo Inc. in the US is an Asian woman. Out of nine Asians on the WSJ list, three are from China, two are from Korea, and Singapore, Japan and India contributed one each.

Source: "Women at the Top: Bumping the Glass Ceiling," study presented by Dr. Sharon Siddique of Sreekumar-Siddique

From page C1

New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

The surveyed countries are classified under either "affluent Asia" or "emerging economies," and you don't have to be a Bloomberg viewer to guess where your republic has been lumped.

But don't fret. The "emerging economies" are projected to have \$181 billion in the hands of women to spend as they please, while the women in "affluent Asia" will only have \$35 billion, according to the book "Holding Up Half of the Sky: The New Women Consumers of Asia," by Yuwa Hedrick-Wong.

(Here's a little scheme we should seriously consider: Let's keep a roster of all the companies—Ikea quickly comes to mind—that won't come to our islands now because we're too poor to be their market or we're too rowdy or some other reason that has not deterred the brands with foresight. And when we're finally in the money, let's resolve not to do business with them, hah!)

Another aspect worth noting about the MiWA is that it tracks the advancement of women in terms of employment, college education, managerial position and income, which is definitely more encouraging than surveys on, say, why women are not able to pay their credit card debts.

Of the four key indicators mentioned above, the first two show the ratio of women who have jobs and women who went to college to their male counterparts, per statistics provided by the national census bureau in each country.

Subjective factors

Objective data is important but MasterCard also considered subjective factors. Through a survey of equal numbers of male and female respondents, it sought to measure both genders' perception of whether they hold managerial positions and earn above median income.

"We didn't define 'managerial positions' but simply asked them if they thought they were holding managerial positions and if they thought their annual income was above the median," explained Tan. "We wanted to gauge how positively or negatively respondents felt about their place in the workforce."

While this year's scores for the objective indicators hardly changed from the 2005 results across all markets, the spikes in scores for the perception-based indicators are significant.

Eight of the 13 Asia-Pacific markets reflect an increase in their score from last year, with the rise driven by women having a higher perception of their position at work.

According to the survey, women have a better perception of what they are worth in terms of earnings. More women have said their incomes are above the median (a 16.52 point increase from 53.81 in 2005 to 70.33 this year). The only markets that don't reflect this positive shift in perception of women's income are Japan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Interestingly enough, women in China feel most confident of their earning capabilities, with a score of 87.77 for above median income, followed by women in Singapore (87.63), with scores jumping significantly from last year.

More women in the Asia-Pacific also think of their jobs as managerial, with scores up from 61.04 in 2005 to 70.68 this year. A large ratio of women in the Philippines (129.03),

Malaysia (96.45) and Singapore (92.75) see themselves as being managers.

High self-worth

It seems self-worth is high among Pinays. And this is not just a matter of La Pinay thinking she's boss, but too that more Filipino male respondents don't think of themselves as managers.

Again more women have college education than men in seven countries. Only Thailand has a higher score than the Philippines in this area. Thailand's index is 133.08 while it is 121.1 for the Philippines. Australia ranks third at 102.65.

Vietnam has the highest ratio of working women in relation to men in the labor force, followed by China and Thailand. Vietnam's index is 99.23, which means based on actual statistics, this formerly war-torn market is so much closer to employing an equal number of men and women than any Asia-Pacific country.

In the Philippines, the equality index is 63.46 in favor of the men. Think how much lower the ratio of employed females would be if women didn't leave for jobs overseas.

And now for the not-so-good news: The overall equality index for the Philippines is up from 73.66 in 2005 to 90.90 this year, with the jump in score attributable only to the strong perception among Filipino women that their status in the workplace has improved. The objective data obtained from the national statistics bureau, however, does not bear witness to such a steep advancement among Filipino women.

The MiWA was presented along with two other studies. Pam Woodall, economics editor at The Economist, discussed "Womenomics: The Increasing Importance of Women as Drivers of Global Growth," and Sharon Siddique, Ph.D., a leading development sociolo-

MARKET

MasterIndex of Women's Advancement 2006

Philippines	90.90
Australia	89.07
Thailand	85.56
Singapore	84.02
China	83.55
Malaysia	79.68
New Zealand	74.68
Hong Kong	72.99
Taiwan	71.81
Vietnam	70.57
Indonesia	67.93
Korea	65.02
Japan	46.08
The Region	75.66

CHART showing rankings of Asia-Pacific countries in the 2006 MiWA

CHART BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Worth noting . . .

Why more women don't reach the top

- Women tend to be less competitive.
- Hard to mix babies with work. Career breaks are bad for promotion.
- Discrimination against promoting women
- Exclusion from informal [male] networks
- Lack of [female] role models

Source: "Womenomics: The Increasing Importance of Women as Drivers of Global Growth," study presented by Pam Woodall, Economics Editor of The Economist

Priorities for American women CEO

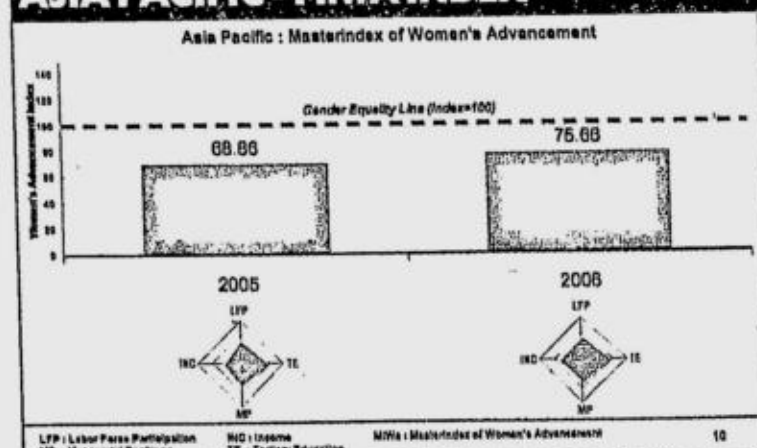
- Exceeding performance expectations
- Successfully managing others
- Developing a style with which male managers are comfortable
- Having recognized expertise in specific content area
- Seeking out difficult or highly visible assignments

Priorities for other CEOs:

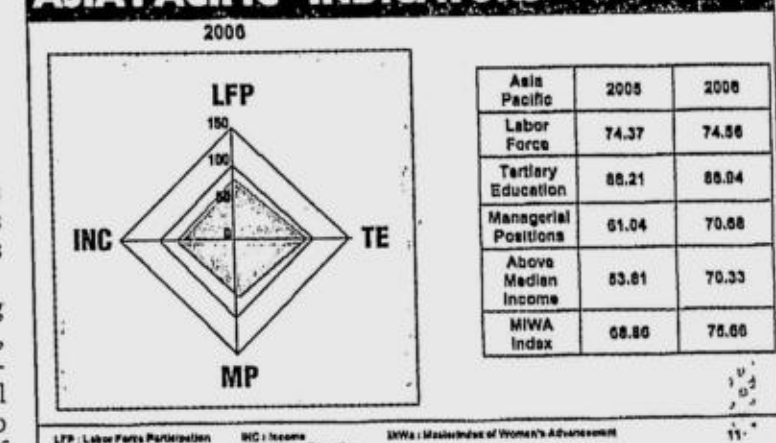
- Successfully managing others
- Exceeding performance expectations
- Gaining management experience
- Seeking out difficult or high visible assignments
- Having recognized expertise in specific content area

Source: "Women at the Top: Bumping the Glass Ceiling," study presented by Dr. Sharon Siddique of Sreekumar-Siddique

ASIA PACIFIC - MIWA INDEX



ASIA PACIFIC - INDICATORS



CHARTS COURTESY OF MASTERCARD



MORE female high-school graduates are going to college than men in the Philippines. And more Filipino women see themselves as managers than men.

gist in Southeast Asia, presented "Women at the Top: Bumping the Glass Ceiling."

"The women's segment continues to grow in importance for many businesses and we are glad to be able to assist companies in better understanding and reaching out to this important target group," said Tan.

Indeed it may be an understatement to say that MasterCard has devoted a good part of its resources on programs that present a better understanding of the female segment of the Asia-Pacific market. Besides the MiWA, it also released a series of consumer and travel reports on women over the course of last year. Then there's also Hedrick-Wong's book, which was launched two days before this briefing.

The women's advancement index is part of the MasterCard MasterIndex suite of research products in Asia-Pacific. Other researches are focused on retail, travel and consumer confidence. For details of the MasterIndex, log on to www.mastercard-masterindex.com.

E-mail the author at cbformoso@inquirer.com.ph.

MasterCard sees Asian women as an economic force to be reckoned with in this century



Find the right preschool for your child

THIS MIGHT BE GRADUATION month but for parents of young children, it's time to face a milestone—finding a school for your child.

Educator Marica Gustilo-de Ocampo writes about finding the right preschool in the current issue of Baby Magazine, the country's ultimate guide for new parents, available in all SM Baby Company Sections, National Book Store, specialty baby shops.

De Ocampo also lists preschools in

Makati, Greenhills, Pasig, Quezon City, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Alabang, which she believes meet the qualities of a good preschool.

Meantime, Dr. Lourdes Ann D. Co, one of the columnists of Baby Magazine, tackles a problem faced by many young parents—picky eaters. Co offers suggestions on how to care for your toddlers who refuse to eat. One suggestion she makes is to make mealtimes fun for toddlers and older kids. Co, who heads the Huggery (Nursery) Services of the Asian Hospital, also talks about

helping the caretakers understand the child more.

Dr. Becky Singson, the magazine's resident obstetrics and gynecology expert, offers 12 easy ways to help soothe a woman in labor, while childbirth expert Rome Kanapi lists suggestions on what your birth partner can do.

Pediatric dermatologist Marivi Dizon explains four common skin problems and what you can do to address these.

Dr. Vicki Belo talks about beauty mistakes that can affect a person's skin, such as not drinking enough water

which she describes as "the elixir of life."

Education specialist Jenny V. Tapaes talks about boosting a child's social IQ, an important facet in today's highly competitive society.

The monthly publication's regular contents include preggy days, baby weeks, toddler months, preschool years.

Featured father for the issue is Cito Beltran and featured mother is Suzie Entrata-Aberra.

Call 7283655 or 56.

Bigger, louder Philippine Fashion Week 2006

PHILIPPINE FASHION WEEK 2006 runs March 31-April. Now on its ninth year, the style fête has become the hottest showcase of Philippine fashion.

Staged by Runway Productions under the helm of executive producers Audie and Joey Espino, Philippine Fashion Week is a 10-day feast of beauty and couture. The first five days will be held in NBC Tent at the Fort. The opening salvo will be a special show by the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines in celebration of its 25th anniversary.

The next four days will feature the 2006 Power Generation

Forecast and The New Generation Collection (April 1, 6:30 p.m.) presented by Sony Ericsson; the Luxe Wear Collection (April 2, 6:30 p.m.) and its elegant, streamlined creations; the Young Avant Garde Collection (April 3, 6:30 p.m.), featuring the Wella Trend Vision 2006 and trend forecasts for the year such as Techno Nature, Real Daydream, World Fusion and Gothic Luxury; and the Grand Allure Collection (April 4, 6:30 p.m.) featuring the Handycam.

The Premier Collection series have participating designers presenting full 30-piece collections. The first show of the series, Pre-

mier Collection A, is on April 1, 3 p.m., featuring Rajo Laurel. Premier Collection B takes place April 2, 3 p.m., featuring the designs of Alex Pigao, Lyle Ibañez and Raoul Ramirez. On April 4, 12 noon, Premier Collection C will present designers Anthony Nocom, Avel Bacudio and Gerry Katigbak, while Frederick Peralta will showcase Premier Collection D at 3 p.m. of the same day.

Philippine Fashion Week 2006 will then move over to the Glorietta Activity Center for the remainder of the 10-day affair. Sony Ericsson presents relaxed, easy-to-wear pieces in a show called Easy Fashion on April 5, 6 p.m., followed by a celebration of fashion and music in Sony's Fashionably Loud Party, 9:30 p.m., featuring the new Walkman. Sony will also have the public showing of the Premier Collection as captured by Cyber-shot on April 7 at 6 p.m.

International modeling agency CalCarries will treat the audience to gorgeous eye candy with its Models! Models! Models! runway romp on April 6, 6 p.m. To cap the night, Tribal Party, featuring New York Club DJ Elliot de Hoyos, will take place at 9:30 p.m. at the Embassy Super Club. Meanwhile, hot summer will be welcomed during the Ready to Wear Collection Summer 2006 on April 8, 6 p.m.

The Grand Finale on April 9, 6



JEANNE Harn of CalCarries for the Grand Allure Collection of Judith Pajaro. Styled by Millet Arzaga, makeup by Claire Seelin-Diokno, hair by Ricky Diokno and photographed by Jake Versoza

p.m., will feature all the participating designers, models, presenters, hair and makeup gurus, and backstage and production crew of Philippine Fashion Week 2006.

Over a hundred designers are participating in the affair, including: Adrian Rios, Aldrich Aparicio, Alex Bitong, Alex Pigao, Anthony Nocom, Anthony Romoff, Aries Lagbat, EsAc Sydney Manila's Audie Espino, Avel Bacudio, Aztec Barba, Barge Ramos, Benjie Panizales, Bo Constantino, Bong Lazo, Brian Leyva, Bumbee Ramos, Chris Diaz, Clara Marasigan, Delby Bragais, Dennis Martin, Dexter Alazas, Dodjie Batu, Dong Omaga-Diaz, Eddie Castro, Edgar Alan, Edgar Buyan, Edgar

Madamba, Edgar San Diego, Emi-Alexander Englis, Eric de los Santos, Eric Sapaula, Erwin Tan, Fanny Serrano, Ferdie Abuel, Frederick Peralta, Francis Calaquian, Garimon Roferos, Gener Gozum, Gerry Katigbak, Glenn Lopez, Happy Andrada, Harley Ruedas, Ivan de la Cruz, James Reyes, Jasmine Castelo, Jay Sustiguer, Jerome Salaya Ang, Joel Escobar, Joey Samson, John Abul, John Guarnes, John Herrera, John Paras, Johnny Abad, Jontie Martinez, Joy Bernaldez, Judith Pajaro, Julius Tarog, Jun Escario, Kate Torralba, Kenneth Chua, Larry Espinosa, Letlet Veloso, Lito Perez, Louis Claparols, Lyle Ibañez, LZ Punzalan, Malu Riguera, Manuel Barretto, Marichu Tan-Geson,

Mel Vergel de Dios, Melvin Lachica, Mich Dulce, Mitzi Quilendrin, Noli Vineza, Nolie Pilapil, Ole Morabe, Olive Cruz, Oliver Tolentino, Oscar Peralta, Patty Eustaquio, Peter Lim, Pia Gladys Perey, Popoy Barba, Protacio Empaces, Rajo Laurel, Ramon Esteban, Ramon Fávila, Raoul Ramirez, Reian Mata, Rem Divino, Renée Salud, Rholand Roxas, Richard Papa, Ricky Vicencio, Roland Lirio, Ronaldo Arnaldo, Shanon Pamaong, Sherwin Darrel Magtulis, Simon Ariel Vazquez, Steve de Leon, Tina Daniac, Tippi Ocampo, Twinkle Ferraren, Veejay Floresca, Vivo Nazareth and Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo.

Call 8440467 or e-mail staff@runwayproductions.com.



ESTRELLA Gloria of CalCarries International Models Philippines for the Grand Allure Collection of Harley Ruedas. Styled by Millet Arzaga, makeup by Claire Seelin-Diokno, hair by Ricky Diokno and photographed by Jake Versoza

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Let The Sweet Scents Take You Higher

Take your pick from fast-moving Ponderosa Heights premium lots

Each day the garden is different, and new in some way: a flower reaches full bloom; a new cluster of leaves appears; a seed falls, allowing new life to begin. That's the story at Ponderosa Leisure Farms, exclusive residential flower garden village in Silang, Cavite.

Sweet and swift

Just as quickly as the different features and areas of Ponderosa Leisure Farms are coming together—the *Villa Ponderosa Clubhouse*, *Campo Verde Campsite*, and the *El Refugio* and the *El Santuario Themed Gardens*, to name a few—more and more city residents and garden enthusiasts are drawn like butterflies to the irresistible flower-inspired Ponderosa lifestyle.

Ponderosa Heights: higher and better

With Ponderosa Leisure Farms (Phase 1) nearly sold-out, developer Landco Pacific Corporation makes a new cluster of lots available for those who missed the first batch: Ponderosa Heights. Set in a prime spot, the lots (17 hectares in total) are better than their neighbors', with higher location and more fanciful terrain. The area will feature 4 elegant and ornate garden courts, in which one can enjoy the relaxing space, the breeze, and the exhilarating view.

With an exquisite Spanish-Mexican inspired visual theme, the project offers superb location (Sta. Rosa Highway, just 45 minutes from Makati), crisp Tagaytay weather and climate, and perfect terrain. Lush landscape, and a world of flowers. The wide expanse is dotted by features and amenities designed to bring new colors and flavors to your lifestyle. Maintenance services allow hassle-free gardening.

Coming together

The project continues to bloom: the *Villa Ponderosa Clubhouse* is getting prepped for all the social action that is to come. With an area that welcomes 80 - 100 people, the structure is another graceful mix of Spanish and Mexican architecture. Its central attraction is a high-ceilinged function room accented by light fixtures on the walls and ceiling. The Clubhouse's glass doors create a wide, spacious, relaxed environment, allowing the interiors to extend naturally into the space and greenery that surrounds.

Just a few weeks away from its launching, the Special Event Area, beside the Clubhouse, features a built-in stage and water fountain in the center. The children's playground, as well as the Las Rosas Outdoor Dining and Tienda de Flores Village Store are soon to rise. Also under construction is a Model House for Ponderosa Heights. Casa Ponderosa, the Model House for the entire development, is available for viewing.

Flower Power

Hurry and reserve a place of your own at Ponderosa Leisure Farms. Experience the beauty and allure of a garden-fresh life—dewdrops in the morning; kids running around the sprinklers; the earth's fragrance after rainfall. Always fresh, always new. Every day, different.

It's your turn to experience Ponderosa Leisure Farms! New lots are available at the highest locations of the village. Call 809-3853 or 0920-9107145 for more information. You may also send e-mail to LFCustomerService@landcopacific.com. Visit www.leisurefarms.com for news and updates. Located in the cool breezy fields of Silang, Cavite, Ponderosa Leisure Farms is just 5 minutes from Tagaytay, and 45 minutes from Metro Manila. Ponderosa Leisure Farms is a quality development of Landco Pacific Corporation.

Landco Pacific Corporation is a multi-product development engaged in high-quality First Homes Subdivisions, Residential Resorts, Leisure Farms, Shopping Centers, and CBD's and Memorial Parks. Committed to provide superior value in its developments, the company has been a benchmark for outstanding lifestyle products that always dare to innovate.

NATURAL HIGHS

Maybe it's the temperate climate or perhaps the more fertile environment, but things seem to grow a lot better in Ponderosa Heights, the new choice offerings of Ponderosa Leisure Farms in Silang, Cavite. It's just five minutes away from Tagaytay. Blessed with higher elevation and more level terrain, flowers grow brighter, fruits juicier, and life in general is made a whole lot easier.

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LEISURE
FARMS

Sunday LIFE STYLE



Painting with lens and light

PDI lensman Edwin Bacasmas' 'Working Hard for the Money' is one of 6 winning Filipino entries in the Asia-wide Epson Color Imaging Contest 2005

By Gibbs Cadiz

NEW YEAR'S DAY, 2003. INQUIRER photographer Edwin Bacasmas was aboard an INQUIRER van that was speeding toward the paper's office in Makati at 8 a.m. when he saw a sight along Kalaw Street that instinctively made him grab for his camera.

"There was this entire family aboard a bicycle with a sidecar full of used cardboard," he recalls in Filipino. "Two older kids were clinging to the

pile, while a baby lay sleeping behind the father, who was pedaling."

Bacasmas snapped away as the van passed by the family. The resulting picture—a vision of homely resiliency in the face of economic blight—was subsequently published as a human-interest bit in the inside pages of the INQUIRER, and then filed away.

Over two years passed before Bacasmas, a veteran photojournalist who takes hundreds of pictures a year on the job, thought again of his haunting New Year's Day picture.

Epson had announced its 2005 Color Imaging Contest, which aimed to spur interest in dig-

PAINTING/D2

EDWIN Bacasmas with his prize-winning photo, currently on exhibit at the Epson Imaging Gallery at Wheelock Place, Orchard Road, Singapore

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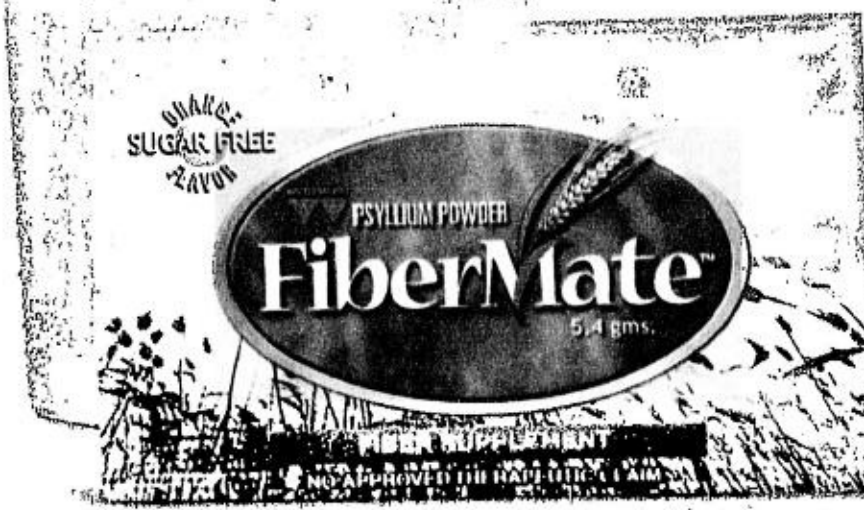
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"LARK," by Edwin Loyola



"ROADSIDE Shower," by Jesse Narrazo



"FAMILY," by Ramon Castillo

Painting with lens and light

From page D1

ital color imaging, the cornerstone of Epson's business and a technology that was becoming more and more accessible to ordinary shutterbugs who wanted the ease of printing high-quality color pics in the comfort of their homes.

The contest, open to all art and photography enthusiasts in the Asia-Pacific Region, made no distinction between digital camera works and those that used the more traditional medium of film. The brand's point, after all, was in the image that came out in the end. So the only requirement was that the submitted photo be printed digitally.

Bacasmas, who lugs a F90x Nikon SLR camera on his assignments, beat the contest's deadline for submission by one day, turning in four entries, including the picture he shot on Kalaw Street. He gave it the title "Working Hard for the Money," and submitted it under a new category, Family Snap Award (the other categories were Color Imaging and Nature and Human Life).

Record

Epson's Color Imaging Contest this year drew a record 69,000 works. Some 11,783 entries were from Southeast and South Asia, including Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Six Philippine entries made it to the winners' circle. Edwin Loyola ("Untitled"), Pacita Tiong ("Joyous") and Jesse Narrazo ("Roadside Shower") bagged merit awards in the Family Snap category. Joseph Wu ("Symphony") was an honorable mention in Colour Imaging, while Ramon Castillo ("Family") made it as a merit awardee in the Human Life category.

Bacasmas' photo was the highest-ranked Philippine entry. Various photographic permutations were recognized under the Family Snap Category, such as Cuddly Baby Snap Award, Funny Snap Award and Scenery Snap Award. But the original Family Snap Award was shared by Bacasmas and Yeo Yeow Kwang of Singapore.

Bacasmas recently traveled to Singapore to personally receive his plaque from Hiromi Taba, managing director of Epson Singapore Pte Ltd. His triumph came with prize money of 50,000 yen (around P25,000) and an Epson photo printer.

"Working Hard for the Money," and the five other Filipino entries and other winning images from around Asia, are currently on exhibit at the Epson Imaging Gallery at Wheelock Place, Orchard Road, in Singapore. The gallery displays large-scale visuals that showcase the capabilities of Epson digital printers to create high-resolution works with great clarity, detail and color.

Here, Bacasmas' picture of nobility in extreme conditions shares upscale space with the likes of the grand-prize winner in the Color Imaging category, Michiko Nishimura's "Wonderland," a kaleidoscope of snapshots celebrating the pop-art quirkiness of modern Japan.

The sheer diversity of the images on display—from classicist black-and-white compositions to dazzling comic book-like color sketches—at tests to the growing sophistication of digital



"WORKING Hard for the Money," by Edwin Bacasmas



EPSON endorser Iya Villania with the portable photo printer PictureMate 100

printing to capture nuances and gradations previously reserved only for processed photo prints.

Easy, accessible

Epson itself is recognizing the potential of easy, affordable and accessible digital printing to overhaul the way people use pictures to communicate ideas and prompt action. Its projects, such as the Color Imaging Contest, are a way of acquainting people with the technology and helping them make the shift to the digital realm painlessly.

In Singapore, a number of secondary schools have been visited by the Epson Mobile Youth Bus, originally a double-decker bus that now sports an open top and functions as a fun outdoor classroom.

On its sorties, around 10-12 kids are invited aboard the EpBus at one time and trained to use inkjet printers, scanners, digital cameras, laser printers and LCD projectors. The expectation is that they will use and disseminate this knowledge in their school newsletters and events, community outreach programs and other educational activities.

A more personalized digital printing experience is also underway. Epson's latest inkjet model, the PictureMate 100, is no bigger than a lunch box and actually looks like one. This portable photo lab allows anyone to print photos anytime even without a PC, and delivers color pictures that are water- and smudge-resistant.

Innovations like this can only herald more and bigger digital photo tilts in the future. Bacasmas and company would only be too happy to click away.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph



BACASMAS with Hiromi Taba, managing director of Epson Singapore Pte Ltd. (center), and Randy Kanapi, marketing group head of Epson Philippines

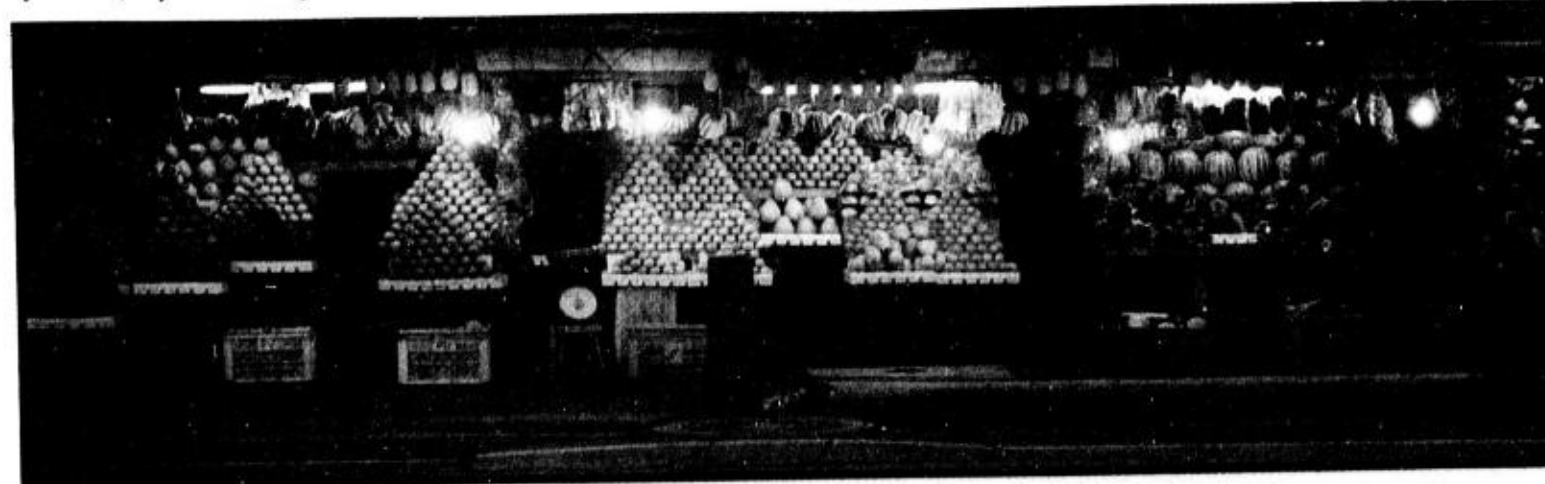


THE EPSON Mobile Youth Bus, an outdoor classroom that visits schools around Singapore to spread the word on digital imaging

PHOTOS BY GIBBS CADIZ



"JOYOUS," by Pacita Tiong



"SYMPHONY," by Joseph Wu



"WONDERLAND," by Michiko Nishimura, grand prize winner in the Color Imaging category

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Visita Iglesia on April 13

Inscribe Tours' will have its annual Visita Iglesia tour on April 13, Holy Thursday. The tour will take participants to seven churches in Bulacan and Pampanga. In Bulacan, they will visit the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Marilao, Barasoain Church in Malolos, and Calumpit's 400-year-old St. John the Baptist Church. The Pampanga itinerary covers Betis Church in Guagua, Bacolor's San Guillermo Church, Lubao's 434-year-old San Agustin Church and Angeles City's Holy Rosary Cathedral. The guided day tour includes buffet lunch and snack. Call 5758370 or 0919-8184697. Meanwhile, Biyaheong Pinoy and Exotik Garden Restaurant are organizing a Holy Week Visita Iglesia in Eastern Laguna towns, known as Baybayin. Covered by the tour of Laguna lakeside parishes, via Antipolo, are Mabitan, Sta. Maria, Pangil, Pakil, Paete, Kalayaan and Lumban. Call 7515200 or 0920-3660534.

Hospitality industry training

The new Enderun Colleges aim to provide quality education to people aspiring for jobs in the hospitality industry. Enderun has state-of-the-art facilities, including a 36-seater training restaurant, Restaurant 101, that will open soon. Enderun is at the Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ortigas Center. It expects to have its first full freshman class in June. Short courses on entrepreneurship and the culinary arts will start in March. Call 6385555, 6361613 or e-mail admissions@enderun.com.ph. Visit www.enderun.com.ph

Discover Pangasinan

Explore Pangasinan on Victory Liner. The bus company has stations in Dagupan, Lingayen, Alaminos and Bolinao. Pangasinan is known for its fabulous beaches, which are great for surfing, snorkeling and kayaking. Put some excitement back into a much-needed vacation. Discover interesting local places like Pangasinan through a Victory Liner bus. Visit www.victoryliner.com

3 more US borders adopt biometrics

The United States Department of Homeland Security has expanded the US-Visit program's biometric entry procedures to three land border ports of entry (POE) in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The ports along the US-Mexico border are part of a multi-phased deployment of US-Visit entry procedures that began in September and will be completed before the end of the year. The ports are Naco POE, South Tower Avenue and International Border (Naco, Ariz.), Antelope Wells POE, Route 51 and International Border (Antelope Wells, N.M.), Los Ebanos Ferry POE (Rio Grande City, Texas). US-Visit currently applies to all visitors, regardless of country of origin or whether they are traveling on a visa, with certain exemptions. Canadian citizens are exempt, as are most Mexican visitors who apply for admission using a Border Crossing Card. Visit www.dhs.gov/us-visit

Hotel gets new name

The New World Renaissance Hotel is now the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila. But the hotel remains part of the Renaissance Hotels & Resorts group and Marriott International, Inc. Renaissance Hotels and Resorts, which provides full-service accommodations to business travelers, group meetings and leisure travelers, currently has more than 136 hotels in over 30 countries. Marriott International, Inc. is a leading lodging company with more than 2,700 properties in the United States and 65 other countries and territories.

Summer packages

InterContinental Manila offers two exciting packages for local residents until June 15. There's the Summer Break Package consists of an overnight stay in a deluxe room for P5,500 net or in an executive room for P6,500 net with continental breakfast in bed or buffet breakfast for two at Café Jeepney, complimentary access for two to the Red Corner Fitness Center, complimentary use of the swimming pool, two free fruit shakes at Sol y Sombra, 20-percent discount at Kaffee Salon and 10-percent discount on all Suriya Spa services. Another special package is the Family Weekend Gateway at P6,000 net for an overnight weekend stay in a deluxe room or P7,000 net in an executive room and at P8,500 net in a junior suite. Call 8159711.

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Get a FREE EQ Travel Buddy bag when you buy any EQ Dry Pack!

PROMO PERIOD: MARCH 18 - JULY 18, 2006

MECHANICS:

I. Consumers may join by simply collecting packs with intact proof of purchase (POINTS) found on the packs of EQ Dry Baby Diaper. Points per packaging are as follows:

EQ DRY BABY DIAPER with cloth-like cover PACKAGING	LABEL POINTS
Mini Pack (4s)	1/4 point
Travel Pack (12s)	1 point
Econo Pack (S40s, M36s, L32s, XL28s)	2 points
Jumbo Pack (S80s, M54s, L48s, XL42s)	3 points

II. Submit the required EQ Dry Baby Diaper wrappers together with the following information: sender's name, complete address where you want the premium item/s delivered, baby's name and age, telephone and/or cellphone numbers, signature of parent/guardian, and the desired premium item, written on a piece of paper and enclosed in an envelope. For hard-to-find locations, it would be best that landmark information of the address given be provided for easy reference.

III. Entries can be mailed or hand carried to:

"EQ Dry Travel Buddies"
JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc.
31st Floor, Raffles Corporate Center
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

OR

"EQ Dry Travel Buddies"
P.O. Box 14280 Pasig City

IV. Choose from any of the following collectible baby bag designs with the required EQ Dry Baby Diaper label points:

Premium Items	Points
Baby Travel Bags: (available designs) A. Pink and blue color combination B. Green and yellow color combination	10 points each
Animal Face Bags: (available designs) C. Cow D. Bear E. Penguin F. Dog	8 points each

IMPORTANT:

- Only packs of EQ Dry with cloth-like cover (plain or white) will be accepted.
- Entries containing cut-out points will not be honored.

V. The chosen premium item/s shall be delivered by LIBCAP Express to the address submitted by the consumer. In the event that the entry sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of the sender's household may be asked to sign a proof of delivery and receive the premium item/s in behalf of the entry sender.

VI. Delivery lead times for the premium items are as follows (commencing upon receipt of "delivery orders" by the courier):

- a. Metro Manila: within 2 to 3 days
- b. Luzon & Visayas: within 2 to 4 days
- c. Mindanao: within 3 to 5 days

VII. Premium items will be delivered until 60 days from end of promo period.

VIII. Consumers may join as many times as they want.

IX. Prizes are non-convertible to cash.

X. Entries thru mail are qualified 15 days after the promo period.

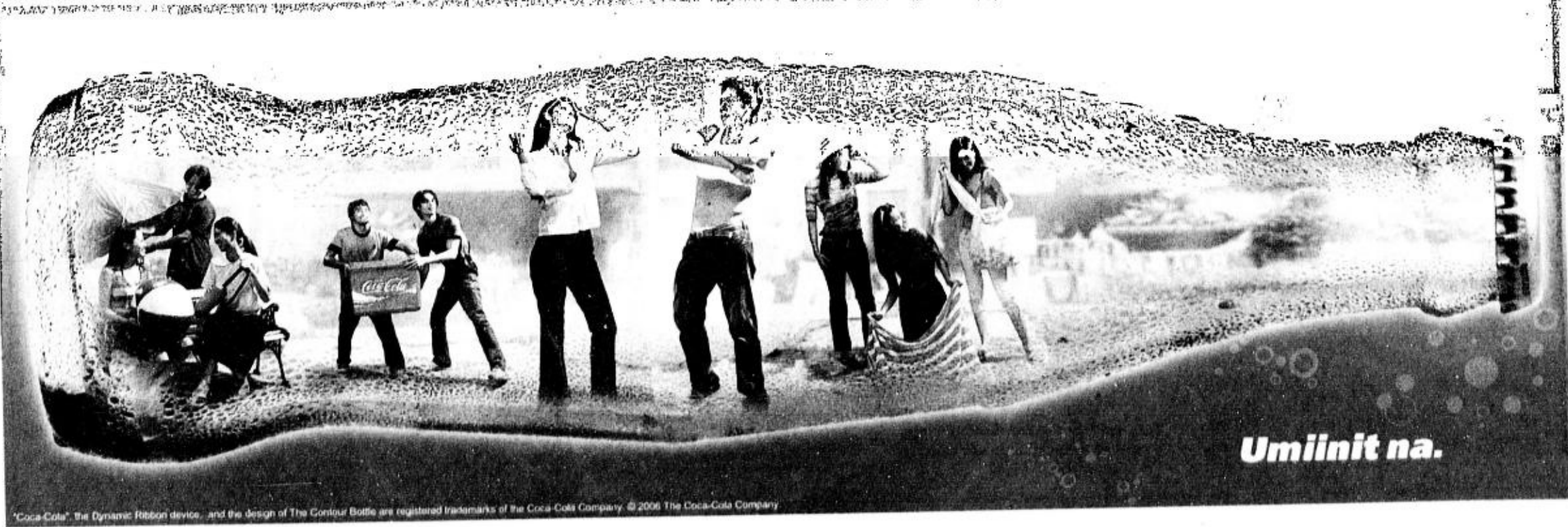
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VICTORIAN ELEGANCE. Rising majestically on the shores of Penny's Bay, Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel recalls the romance and luxury of grand, Victorian-era hotels made famous in England, Europe and America.

Foodie's adventure at Disneyland

The Hong Kong theme park is distinguished from other Disneylands by its wide selection of cuisine

Text and photos by Vangie Baga-Reyes

SIX MONTHS AFTER ITS grand opening, Hong Kong Disneyland has become one of the most popular family destinations in the region. Though many times it gets compared to its counterparts in California, Florida, Tokyo and Paris, Hong Kong Disneyland can hold out on its own.

HK Disneyland may be the smallest and most compact among the 10 Disneylands in the world, but the limitation does not impede the fun and the imagination. Like its predecessors, this theme park is packed with magical shows, rides, parades and spectacles designed to bring out the child in us.

And one of its more magical attractions is the eating expedition. "Dining is another integral part of the Disney experience as is shopping," said Rudolf Muller, executive chef of HK Disneyland Resort.

The resort may be rooted in the all-American dream of Walt Disney, but the cuisine in the theme park and two resort hotels reflects Asia's diverse cultures and tastes.

"Food is also part of the guest experience," said Muller. "I'm absolutely sure that you will leave the place if you don't like the food you eat and see around you."

Right, bad food will also forever remain in one's memories.

Culinary delight

The Park offers a diverse range of food in its eight restaurants, three of which are table-service and the rest, self-service.

The food-and-beverage team has carefully designed the park's



CHICKEN toppings from the Park's Tahitian Terrace Restaurant

menus to feature popular dishes from different parts of Asia—from the Northwest, the Jiangnan region and Guangdong province in Mainland China, to Southeast Asia and Japan.

Different kitchens feature different styles of cooking, such as Steam Kitchens, which serve dim sum and steamed dishes; Wok Kitchens, serving stir fries; and other eateries such as Curry, Noodle, and BBQ Kitchens.

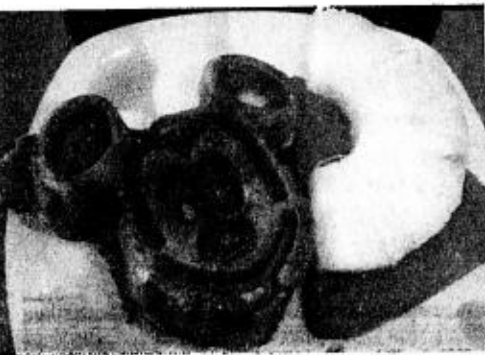
"Hong Kong is a very sophisticated food town, more like New York City," said Klaus Mager, director of food and beverage for HK Disneyland. "It's a population



FRUIT jello from Market House Bakery



RUDOLF Muller, HK Disneyland executive chef



MICKEY Mouse-shaped waffle for breakfast at Enchanted Garden



SIGNATURE Jiang Nan appetizers: crispy suckling pig, roasted goose, smoked Mandarin fish fillets and marinated chicken



COMPLETE meal of beef steak, mushroom soup, salad and tea from River View Café, for HK\$55

that is very knowledgeable, very much into food."

In the park, food is relatively healthy and fresh. Noodles are cooked as you watch. The three cafés—Clopin's Festival of Foods in Fantasyland, Tahitian Terrace in Adventureland, and Comet Café in Tomorrowland—offer menus from different regions of China.

Noodle bowls range from Sichuan Dan Dan Noodles to Nanjing Beef Noodle Soup. Wok dishes include Nonyay Chicken Curry, kung pao chicken, slow-braised pork ribs and Yang Zhou fried rice.

Also offered are barbecue specialties such as spicy fried chicken legs, roasted five-spice duck and roasted pork sausage.

On our cold afternoon weekday visit at the park, we gobbled down a big bowl of hot Curry Laksa Noodle Soup that cost HK\$45 (P497). Others partook of the tender chicken teriyaki, also at HK\$45.

What's nice about the service is that each order comes with

utensils that are packed nicely in small little plastic bags, and the queues move quickly especially during lunch and dinner.

For a quick bite, snack carts throughout the park are inspired by the colorful street vendors in China. Carts serve fresh mango, orange, grapefruit, guava and mango juices at HK\$20 (P132). Soya milk is sold at HK\$15 (P99), bottled water HK\$10 (P66).

Filling snacks include small baskets of wrapped fruits, as well as turkey and chicken legs, hot dog on a stick, and sausages. Popcorn, in caramel and coconut milk flavors, is everywhere, at HK\$15.

If you want a real Chinese gustatory treat and have plenty of time at hand to enjoy every bite, then step in at Plaza Inn, operated by the Maxim's Group. It serves Cantonese dishes. We recommend the roasted chicken, garlic broccoli, scallops and mango pudding.

FOODIE'S/DS

PDI-SUN VILLAGE-SEAIR PHOTO CONTEST

More Boracay winners



"PARADISE," submitted by Clemente D. Fajardo Jr. "Escaping their harsh winter, Westerners, many of them Europeans, find a tropical paradise in Boracay. Enjoying every ray of the sun, they flock to the White Beach in Station 2 almost across D'Mall."



"HABAGAT" series, submitted by Frederick Fomero. "The flipside of the amihan season is just as enjoyable and fun. No throngs of people to share a wave with, just your special someone or family and friends."

YOU ONLY HAVE ONE WEEK TO submit your photos to the "Best of Boracay" photo contest.

The standouts this week join the previous weeks' winners as finalists for the top three prizes. They may claim their Nivea Sun Gift Packs from our marketing department on any work day (call 8978808 and ask for Hazel Sorriaga).

The Best of Boracay Photo Contest is open to all photo enthusiasts who have personally visited Boracay.

If your photo entry is in print, it must be 8" x 10" in size. Sorry, no prints will be returned. If in digital form, it must be in 200-resolution jpeg format and unaltered.

Submit the photo with a short caption describing the experience, where in Boracay and when the photo was

taken, as well as the following information: your name, address, mobile phone number, land line phone number and e-mail address.

Send your entry to the Best of Boracay Photo Contest, Lifestyle c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Don Chino Rocas Ave. cor. Yague and Mascarido Sts., Makati City, or e-mail to travelpromo@inquirer.com.ph

Entries must be received at the PDI office if hand-delivered or via e-mail by March 24. Mailed entries must be postmarked March 24, 2006.

Entries will be judged by a panel consisting of representatives from the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sun Resorts Inc., Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. and professional photographers.

Winners must submit the negatives or CD files of their winning entries be-

fore claiming their prizes.

The first-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for four to Boracay courtesy of Seair; five days-four nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The second-prize winner gets round-trip tickets to Boracay for two courtesy of Seair; four days-three nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The third-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for two to Boracay courtesy of Seair; three days-two nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

For complete contest details, e-mail travelpromo@inquirer.com.ph

Foodie's...

From page D4

Now, if you suddenly crave for a blend of Western and Chinese cooking, visit Main Street Corner Café for its New England-style fish and chips and chicken curry. For a sweet bite, the Market House Bakery offers muffins, croissants and pies, including a Mickey Mouse-shaped rice krispy treat.

For burgers and fries, go straight to Starliner Diner, which is the park's largest and only American restaurant. Try the Char Siew Burger, a pork patty spiced with char siew and water chestnuts served in steamed bun at HK\$35 (P231).

"After all the research and survey made prior to the opening, we agreed that we had to 'localize' or adjust the taste of the food to our target market," noted Muller.

To suit the Asian market that leans toward sweetness, Muller added sugar to the spaghetti; the patties are pre-seasoned; and the chicken wings, legs and drumsticks are coated with batter and cooked like tempura.

Crème de la crème of dining

Having two plush resort hotels in Disneyland, an elegant, fine-dining experience should also be part of the magical package.

The upscale Crystal Lotus at HK Disneyland Hotel serves Asian cuisine in such a contemporary Chinese arts-and-crafts setting with lotus designs used in various forms throughout the interior.

Here, dinner is when the chef shines, with live fish tanks for the catch of the day and specialties like the signature Jiang Nan appetizers of crispy suckling pig served with sweet sauce, roasted goose served with pickled plum jam, and smoked Mandarin fish fillets; braised Tasmanian rock lobster in pumpkin soup, steamed fresh crab claw infused with ginger rice wine, and braised young Shanghai brassica in clear superior soup.

The Enchanted Garden Restaurant is for a more refreshing, relaxed and informal gathering, set in Victorian-style garden conservatory complete with tall potted palms and a high-arching glass ceiling.

The buffet has a mix of Asian and Western favorites, with a selection of dim sum, noodles, chicken, ham, omelet, waffles.

Don't worry about lining up to take photos with the famous characters at the Disney Park and the Enchanted Garden restaurant; they come right up to your table! The fab five—Mickey, Minnie, Pluto, Goofy and Donald Duck—take their time to sign autographs and take their pictures with you.

Over at Chef Mickey, the signature dining venue of Disney's Hollywood Hotel, there's an array of international favorites such as pizza, Chinese barbecue, Indian curry and sausages.

Promo for Pinoys

This summer, to entice families from the Philippines, HK Disneyland is offering free breakfast for Filipino resort guests if they stay at one of its two fabulously themed hotels.

Until May 31, hotel guests can receive one free breakfast for up to four people. Guests of HK Disneyland Hotel can enjoy breakfast at the Enchanted Garden, while those at Disney's Hollywood Hotel can partake of the breakfast buffet at Chef Mickey's restaurant.

Promo applies to new reservations only. Contact your local travel agent.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

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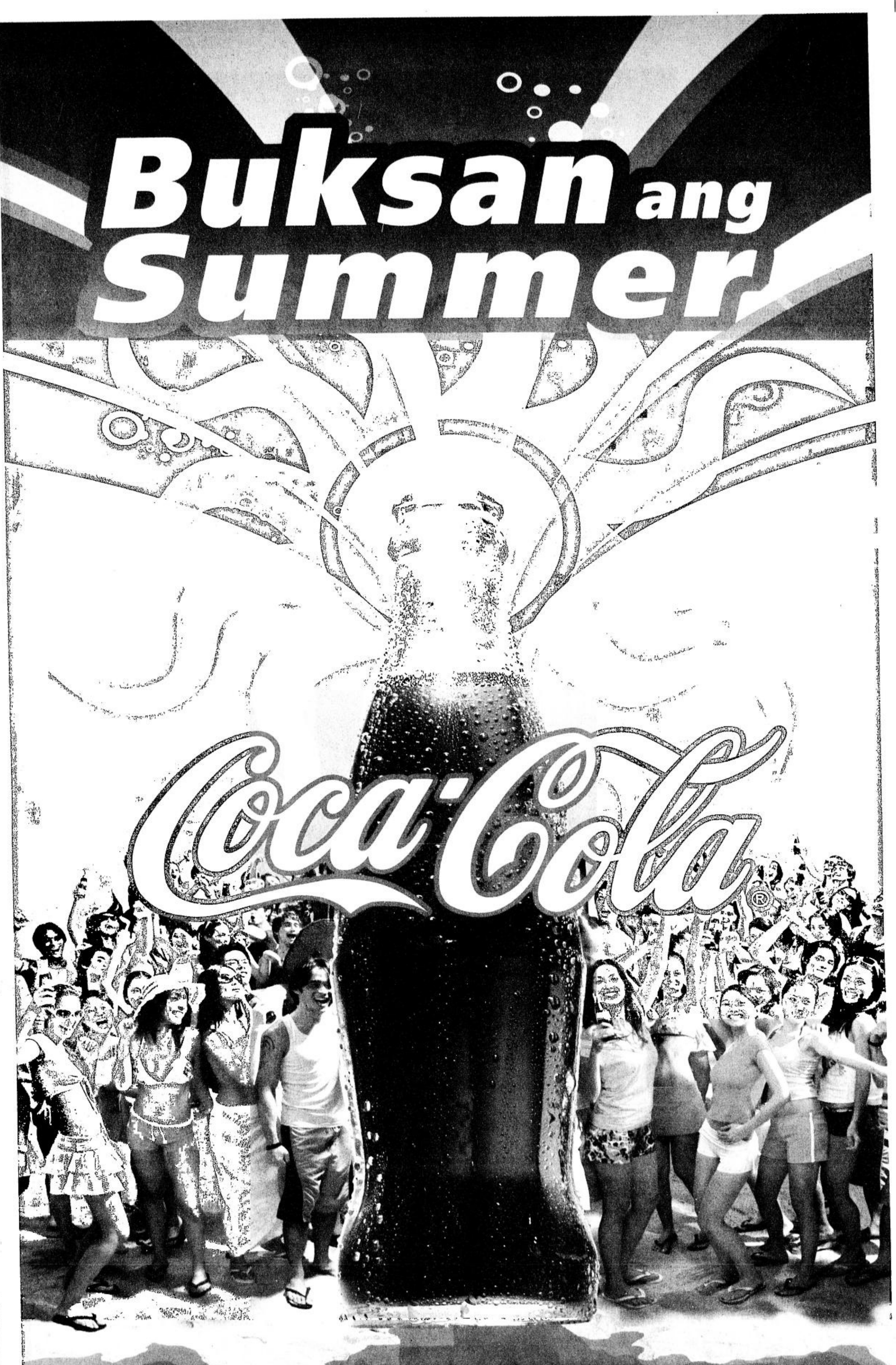
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Buksan ang Summer



Coca-Cola

Buksan ang COKE Summer, March 19, 12 noon sa SOP GMA-7.

Aapaw ng stars, bands, games at gimik!

Hatid ng COCA-COLA buong hapon sa Baywalk, Roxas Boulevard.

Kaya join ka na!

Text COKE<space>SUMMER to 2332 for FREE COKE Buksan ang Summer ringback tone. Exclusive to Globe subscribers.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



RIVERA-CAC

Arnel Z. Rivera, son of Adelio and Melania Rivera, and Kristy Q. Cac, daughter of Arturo and Primrose Cac, exchanged vows yesterday at the Shrine of Jesus, The Way, The Truth and The Life, Macapagal Ave., Pasay City. Reception was held at Patio Victoria, Intramuros, Manila.

The gowns of the bride and her entourage were designed and executed by Paul Mateo of The Wedding Day of Cavite and Makati.



RAYPON-LACANILAO

Dodee J. Raypon, son of Rolando and Aurora Raypon, will marry Mary Thatcher S. Lacanilao, daughter of lawyer Redentor and Melanda Lacanilao, on March 26 at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La, which will have a Moroccan-themed décor by Balay Kandila. Dong Omega-Diaz designed the bride's gown of royal Thai silk with crystal embellishments. The groom will wear a suit by Randy Ortiz.



SACAL-PATAC

Lucilo Mahipos Sacal Jr., son of Belita and Lucilo Sacal Sr., will marry May Arlene Patac, daughter of Domingo and Zenaida Patac, on April 6 at Our Lady of Assumption, Tagum City.

Reception will be at Molave Hotel. Wedding coordinators are Elena and Tata Soriano.

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QUEZON CITY: FBR Building, 317 Katipunan Avenue 426-0034 to 36, 0917-8911187
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THE COUPLE with principal sponsors: Yolly Alcorido, Cora de la Paz, Mila Drilon, Rep. Amelita Villarosa, and groom's aunt Lucille Martin (at back); Dr. Alberto Fenix Jr., Hermelo Bacani, Salvador Escano, Jaime Lopez and Hai Phan



WITH BRIDE'S uncles Bishop Ted Bacani and Father Cito Carlos

PHOTOS: DOODS TANABE

Two weddings on two continents



NEWLYWEDS
Steven and
Melissa Phan

IT SEEMED ONE OF THE LEAST likely places that a sports-minded and energetic guy like Steven Phan would venture into—the British Museum.

But venture he did about four years ago and that's where he met Melissa Bacani who, like him, was attending a joint alumni MBA Christmas reception of the University of Chicago and the London Business School.

He went to the American university while she attended the British school.

No sparks flew during that initial meeting. The relationship would slowly develop into a friendship and eventually blossom into a romance that would be capped by two distinct ceremonies on two continents.

In the late European summer of 2005, the London-based investment bankers with HSBC and Citigroup returned to Steven's hometown in the scenic region of Alsace near the French/Swiss border for the civil rites required by French law.

Phan wore a barong while Bacani wore a gown by Patís Tesoro made of yards of hand-woven piña embellished with embroidery and beadwork.

The bride's parents, Senen and Yolie Bacani, with their sons Alberto and Carlos, joined Jean-Pierre and Marie-Claude Phan and their family at the ceremony in the centuries-old town hall, with the mayor officiating.

Family and friends celebrated afterwards at the picturesque Michelin-rated Chateau de Isenbourg set amid acres of lush vineyards. They partied till morning, dancing and singing in typical French tradition.

In December, the couple made



WITH ONE of the ninangs, Rep. Amelita Villarosa



WITH SENATE Pres. Frank Drilon and wife Mila

their vows again in Catholic rites in Manila. More than 50 guests from Europe, North America and Asia join Melissa's friends and family to witness the ceremony at the Santuario

de San José in Greenhills, the same church where Bacani's parents exchanged wedding vows 35 years ago.

Principal sponsors were the bride's uncles Dr. Alberto Fenix Jr., Hermelo Bacani, Salvador Escano and Dr. Emigdio Lopez (represented by another uncle, Jaime Lopez), and close family friends Rep. Amelita Villarosa, Mila Drilon, Cora de la Paz, Yolanda Alcorido and the groom's godmother, Luce Martin.

The bride's uncle, Bishop Teodoro Bacani, officiated at the rites, with the Bukas Palad Music Ministry providing background music.

The entourage wore magenta and lime green creations, also by Patís Tesoro. Maid of honor was Bacani's friend at Ateneo de Manila University, Liel Gonzalez. Bunny Reyes and Mily Phan were bridesmaids.

Michael Wingenroth, who shared the groom's passion for skiing and flying, was best man and two childhood friends from Dijon, Rodophe Saussier and Bertrand Pourcelot, were groomsmen.

The wedding reception followed at the Rizal Ballroom of the Shangri-La Makati. Close friends Lara Parpan and Nabil Aboulzouf were emcees. A video presentation was produced by Jason Magbanua. Guests partied to the beat of The Real Groove band.

The day after the wedding, everyone set off on a city tour to explore the Ayala Museum, Intramuros and Fort Santiago, ending with a dinner and a Filipiniana cultural show at the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

The entire party then flew to Boracay to welcome the New Year. Following their honeymoon in Bali, the newlyweds returned to their home in London.



WITH PARENTS Senen and Yolie Bacani and Jean-Pierre and Marie-Claude Phan



WITH SECONDARY sponsors: bridesmaids Mily Phan, Bunny Villarosa and Liel Gonzales; groomsmen Michael Wingenroth, Bertrand Pourcelot and Rodophe Saussier; flower girls Gabriele Uy, Kaira Fenix and Gabriele Sabine Bacani; ring and coin bearers Quinto Reyes and Hans Jefferson Ng



ABANDO DEBUT

Camille Christianne Abando, daughter of Rannie and Gina Abando, will celebrate her 18th birthday on March 25 with a dinner dance at Tivoli Royale Country Club, Batasan Hills, QC.

Eric Pineda designed the debutante's gown using ivory and lavender chiffon georgette. The asymmetric, one-shoulder bodice is adorned with hand-pleated, feather-cut leaf appliqué and embellished with lilac and silver caviar beads, paillettes, and crystals.

TULIO-BOLIVAR

Anna Lhe V. Bolivar, daughter of Aveno and Sheba Bolivar, and Jenel R. Tulio, son of Jeremy and Nelly Tulio, recently exchanged vows at Le Pemy Garden, Kalibo, Aklan. Edwin L. Autencio's Biste designed the bride's gown while Rommel J. Constantino of 5672: Event Management Specialist coordinated the event.



Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

BELTRAN-MEJIA

Joseph Edmond Carlo Felix Beltran, son of PSSUPT Meynardo (ret.) and Charmaine (née Felix) Beltran, wed Anna Francisco Mejia, daughter of Franklin Vicencio and Jocelyn Francisco Mejia, at the Chapel of Transfiguration at Caleruega, Nasugbu, Batangas. Reception was held at Royale Tagaytay Country Club.



LUCENA-MANGULABNAN

Johans F. Lucena, son of Jaenas and Florita Lucena, recently wed Karla C. Mangulabnan, daughter of Francisco and Eloisa Mangulabnan, at the Chapel of Transfiguration, Batulao, Batangas. Reception was held at Colossians Garden, Neogan 2, Tagaytay City.



MARTE-REYES

Rodel Q. Marte, son of Federico and Anunciacion Marte, recently tied the knot with Ann Jairose C. Reyes, daughter of Noel and Theodora Reyes at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Kalibo, Aklan. The bride designed her wedding gown. Rommel J. Constantino of 5672: Event Management Specialist coordinated the event.



BRUAL-TOLEDANES

Carlo Clement Brual, son of Clemente and Eufemia Brual, recently married Cesabeth Toledanes, daughter of Cesar and Beatriz Toledanes, in St. Anne's Catholic School, United Kingdom. Fr. Peter Brealey officiated the wedding.

Miracle in Cathedral of St. Joseph

THE NEWLY RENOVATED Cathedral of St. Joseph in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, was the scene of a Eucharistic miracle in 1999, during a Mass being celebrated by Msgr. Luvimindo Sayson.

Msgr. Sayson dropped the Host during Holy Communion. When he picked it up, it was dripping with blood. Amazed and stunned, the priest carefully returned the Host inside the ciborium and put it inside the tabernacle.

The bishop at that time was Leo Drona. The parish kept quiet about it. I heard about the miracle when people went to the church to pray.

Later, the Host was transferred to the Church of the Alliance of the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary. A special altar was made for it. Sick people reportedly get healed when they go there.

Whether new Bishop Mylo Vergara will request for the return of the Host remains to be seen.

But the people of San Jose are happy that their cathedral was finally renovated.

Work on the cathedral, built in 1937 with Fr. Theolore Kit as first parish priest, began in 1997. Remedios "Emy" Francisco Ignacio was chair of the working committee.

With the blessing of Bishop Drona and Msgr. Sayson, the fundraising project began with the P1-million donation of lawyer Polo Pantaleon. Parishioners then gave their contributions.

The renovation plan was prepared by architect Joselito Pantaleon, noted for his conservative classic designs and baroque architecture. He wanted a cathedral that evoked awe and solemn grandeur.

The first part of the project was given to architect Rene Sta. Romana of Wizard Construction Company. Phase II covered the belfry, sacristy and other parts of the building.

The most difficult work involved the dome, finished in 2004. Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco performed the blessing.

With new Bishop Mylo Vergara installed in 2005, the new cathedral will be consecrated by Archbishop Oscar Cruz tomorrow, March 20.

Anniversary

The Calolbon (San Andres) Civic Association (CCAI) invites Metro Manila-based residents of San Andres, Catanduanes, to join in the observance of its 80th anniversary. The first in a series of

Sister's new hubby offends family

From page E4

given him some slack? Maybe he is nasty because no one has tried to assuage his fragile but volatile ego. Remember, he's coming in as a second husband! And no one has made him feel welcome in your family?

We're like the 12 blind men touching different parts of an elephant and desperately guessing what animal it is. It might be the same for you. You may be only seeing parts, not the whole picture, of him.

You'll probably say six years is long enough to know a person. True, perhaps, but has he not been of help to anyone at all, ever? Was there not even a nano of goodness in him, ever? Is he as bad as sin really?

Who you want to invite to your wedding is up to you. That's your day! But family will still be family even after the ceremonies are over. If you have the guts, talk to this brother-in-law and ask him why he is so nasty with your family. Open your heart to him. He is

still a human being who may listen to reason.

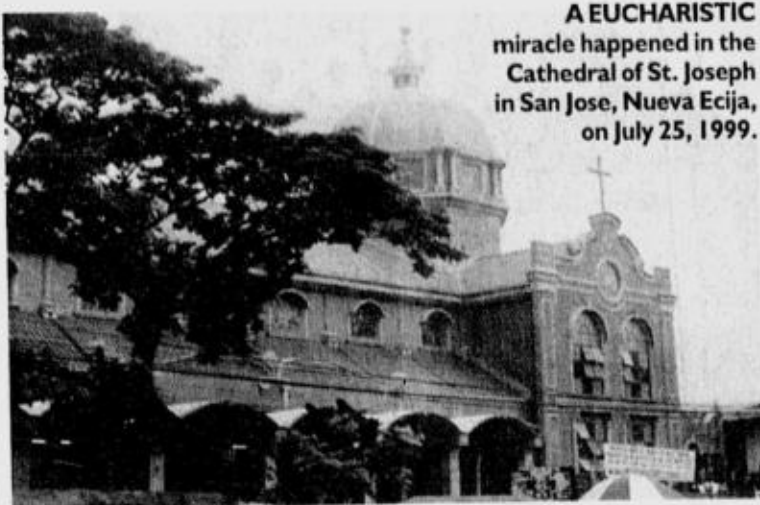
If all else fails, have that heart-wrenching talk with your sister about her husband. Tell her how very much you'd like a memorable wedding, free from stress and apprehension. Your sister may decide not to attend and come up with a believable story for the whole family.

Just open all lines of communication. Don't be afraid to pour your heartaches and worries to your sister. The worst that can happen is a door slamming in your face. At least, it will clear the air.

Your sister might also remember that, after all, "blood is still thicker than water."

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer: Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dw-BR 104.3 FM

A EUCHARISTIC miracle happened in the Cathedral of St. Joseph in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, on July 25, 1999.



Lenten recollection

Fr. Joseph Gaul, a Burmese healing priest, will hold a healing Mass, after the recollection on March 25, at our Lady of Fatima Parish, Cordillera St., Quezon City. Recollection is 1-6 p.m. Text 0921-7909361.

Santuario de San Antonio will hold a recollection 9 a.m.-12 noon, March 25, with Fr. Francisco Tequia as speaker, and, on April 8, also at the same time, with Fr. Eliseo Santos.

The Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry will hold a recollection 10 a.m.-5 p.m., March 25, at the second floor of the Watson's drugstore in Gateway. Fr. Teofilo Rustia will be speaker and healer. He will talk about "taking hold of blessings."

Procession

Hospicio de San Jose will hold

Virgin's story

"O Indu: The Complete Story of the Virgen de los Remedios and Her Home in the Parish of Baliti," tells the story of the famous image of Virgen de los Remedios.

Written by Baliti resident Edna L. Gueco, it relates how the Cruzada ning Pamanisi at Lugud (Crusade of Penance and Charity) began in 1952. A procession brought the image of Our Lady all over Pampanga as antidote to socialism and peasant unrest at the time.

The practice of holding a procession has survived though the image is now only a replica. "O Indu" means "Oh, Mother."

Fr. Pablo S. David of "Men of Light" television show and researcher Ninna Tomen will review the book during the program after the Mass, to be officiated by Baliti parish priest Fr. Mar Miranda.

City officials, as well as Baliti residents led by barangay chair Lorenzo Galang are expected to attend. Complimentary copies of the book will be given to archdiocesan institutes in the tradition of *lamac* (Kapampangan for sharing of resources). Book launching is 4 p.m., March 25.

a procession after the 6 p.m. Mass today, March 19, around SM Manila.

For the past nine days, devotees have been going to Hospicio to attend 6 p.m. Masses celebrated by different priests. Fr. Vic Robles, rector of the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Marilao, Bulacan, opened the novena with a homily on being humble like St. Joseph.

He cited the story of a young boy who offered to carry his bag of bread when he was in Baguio with his staff. Realizing the boy needed the few pesos he expected the priest to give him, Fr. Vic let him carry the bag. He found out that the boy's mother sold salt in the market.

When Fr. Vic gave him a hamburger sandwich, the boy carefully

put it in his pocket, saying he would share it with his brother.

Humbled at such a show of humility from someone who did not complain about his situation, Fr. Vic bought food for the boy's family. The wide smile on the boy's face touched Fr. Vic so much that he shared this story.

Yes, St. Joseph, teach us to be humble. Happy feast day!

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love ko 'to'

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- Every purchase of a Float (COKE, Sprite, or Sarsi) or McJelly Trio (Strawberry Hot Fudge, Strawberry Oreo, or Coffee Cappuccino) at any McDonald's outlet nationwide from March 15 to April 15, 2006 entitles you to a peel-off card.
- The peel-off card gives you a chance to:
 - Win 1 of 400 iPod Shuffles
 - Win FREE food items like: Corn McDip, Twister Fries, or Big Mac
 - Enjoy discounts like:
 - P10 off on a Big Mac
 - P10 off on a Quarter Pounder with Cheese
 - P10 off on a Filet-O-Fish
 - P10 off on a McChicken
 - FREE Go Big Time Coke
- The peel-off card also gives you the exclusive "Love Floats" ringtone. To download the ringtone, you must text in the unique code to 29769 using the following format:
 - Monotone (for non-MMS phones): text MCDO <space> (printed code) <space> M to 29769
 - Polytone (for MMS phones): text MCDO <space> (printed code) <space> P to 29769
 - TruStone (for WAV capable phones): text MCDO <space> (printed code) <space> T to 29769
 Ex. MCDO ABC123 P (send to 29769)

You will receive the following Reply Message: Ur LOVE FLOATS tone will be sent 2 u shortly. Tell ur friends abt d McDonald's desserts! P2.50/txt (DTI NCR Permit 0388, Series of 2006.)

* The ringtone cost (P15) is waived for the promotion. However, the subscribers will be billed the download fee of P2.50 by their service provider.

- If you're the lucky winner of an iPod Shuffle, there are two ways to claim your prize:
 - If you're a resident of Metro Manila or nearby provinces (Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, Rizal), you must claim your iPod Shuffle at the McDonald's Head Office at: 17/F Citibank Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.
 - If you're a provincial winner, you can claim your iPod Shuffle by showing the restaurant manager your winning card. The iPod Shuffle will be available at the McDonald's outlet where you got the peel-off card two weeks after you notify the manager.

- Winners of the iPod Shuffle must present the winning peel-off card, proof of purchase, valid identification with photo (i.e. driver's license, passport, NBI clearance, SSS, TIN, voter's ID, etc.) in claiming the prize at the McDonald's Head Office or at the McDonald's outlet where he/she won.
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Sister's new hubby offends family

DEAR EMILY,

I thought writing to you implied a tormented person in dire need of a lifeline. I am that person now.

I live in Melbourne with three other sisters, all with an Australian husband or partner.

We never had a problem until my eldest sister remarried six years ago, someone we considered "white trash." Her ex-husband wasn't all that great either but an angel compared to the new one. Somehow, she has a "thing" for insufferable men.

That, of course, is her business but the husband continually harasses everyone in the family. This has caused a rift among us here in Australia, as well as the family in Manila.

She has become totally estranged from everyone, including her friends.

The guy accompanies her to every get-together, even if it's a mother's club "do." Then he leers at the women or makes rude and nasty comments depending on how he feels. My sister's friends won't see her anymore if she continues to bring him along and my sister chose this guy over people she had known for more than 20 years.

He made her retire from work five years ago (she was only 51), losing more friends and outside contacts. He deliberately alienated everyone my sister knew or was close to.

We noticed the "pattern" but we refused to let our sister "go." We have done this for 6 1/2 years but he's just too unbearable.

On their trip to Manila last year, he abused and maligned my family big-time that our relatives requested that she should come without him next time. We realized he's gone too far this time so we decided we didn't want to see him either.

His reaction was vicious and my sister resented us because of this.

Long ago, three of us sisters agreed that if any of our husbands or partners became too obnoxious, we would not let the offensive person join us.

I am getting married next month and I want my sister there but not her husband. I'm not sure if she will agree. I think she's afraid her husband might do something nasty. Now, I can't decide whether to invite her with that condition or have the wedding without her. She might never forgive me...

CHARITY

From your point of view, it may seem odd that she can tolerate this "white trash" with nary a whimper—unless, of course, she has a doctorate in masochism and couldn't care less how her husband is perceived.

Still, do you have any idea how your sister's marriage is coming along? In six years, is it accurate to say he has no redeeming quality?

To paraphrase a song, "unless you're sleeping between two people, you don't really know what's happening...." Your sister may not be a masochist at all, but may think she found a man she can love, warts and all.

Unknown to you all, and despite your aversion to him, he may be the perfect husband at home—loving, generous, attentive, kind—the complete opposite of the person you know.

It can happen. Your sister may be the only person in the world who knows this.

It's difficult to excuse bad behavior when blatantly committed. But has anyone of you who find him abominable, stopped to consider that this "white trash" may be suffering from severe inferiority complex—the reason why he makes himself obnoxious?

Or he may be carrying that burden most men can't handle—physical "inadequacy."

There's a saying "you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." Has anyone

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Turn to the next page.
Ganito na kadaling
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FIRST-TIME HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

Location, location, location

By Cheche V. Moral

THE IDEA IS SWEET AND TEMPTING: A HOUSE to call your own. No more monthly payments on that cramped two-bedroom rental that you will never own.

But buying a house is not as easy as your daydreams. This could be the biggest purchase you have to make in your lifetime, so it's only prudent for you to go through the process with a clear mind.

Finding a property

Let's say you've determined your financial capability to own a home, then it's time to scout for a property.

If you're single but intend to have a family in the future, you have to take this into consideration. Assess the space you will require.

Consider also your lifestyle—do you entertain a lot? Do you need a backyard for your gardening? Do you love to cook and may need a large kitchen space? If you have children, how many bedrooms and bathrooms will you need? Do you need space for a pet?

Take note that some banks will consider the location of the property for your loan application. Remember that until your loan is fully paid, the house remains the bank's property, and it wants to protect its investment in the case of foreclosure.

In short, the property is the collateral for your loan. When you can't pay off your mortgage after a certain period (usually six consecutive months), you will get evicted, in which case the bank will put the property up in the market.

Also, a good location is an added value to the property; this will be beneficial to you if, in the future, you decide to sell it. Of course, it also means a better living environment for you for many years to come.

So ask, are there facilities in the vicinity that will be valuable to you? Are there schools? Is there a hospital, a market, a church? Are there recreational places like malls, parks, a clubhouse? Is it accessible to public transport?

How about utilities, like water, electricity, telephone, Internet and cable TV systems?

You also need to find out if the area is flood-prone, in a fault line or near a squatter's area. Will you be able to live near an airport, or where there are factories nearby? How is the security in the neighborhood?

More homework

Finding the right property requires careful consideration. Sonny Duay, executive director of Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, suggests a background check on the developer of the property.

"Find out its track record," he adds.

Accredited developers are listed with Housing and Land Use Regula-

tory Board (www.hlub.gov.ph), a government agency. Buying from a reputable developer assures that you're getting a quality property that conforms with industry standards and regulations.

A lawyer advises to make sure the title to the property is clean and "free from encumbrances." Request for a copy of the title from the seller, says Dennis Edaño, senior manager for legal and corporate affairs of Empire East Land Holdings, and check with Registry of Deeds. "It's not enough to just see, since some sellers may show you a title with incomplete annotations."

A check with HLURB will also inform you if the seller has a license to sell.

According to Edaño, the contracts involved are standard and are usually not complicated so hiring a lawyer isn't always required. Your broker, your link with the seller, can help you understand the clauses in your contract.

However, it's imperative to understand whatever document you are asked to sign. When in doubt, it pays to ask an expert.

Compare and contrast

It's also smart to compare several properties before you zero in on one, adds Duay. He says buying a foreclosed property (those sold by banks through public bidding) may save you money, but he advises to do the same scrutiny as you would a brand-new house. Otherwise, whatever you will save from the purchase may end up going to future repairs on a lemon property. You may also need the help of an architect or engineer for this. The same advice applies to any previously owned property.

Of course, there are also rewards to building a home from the ground up. "It costs more," admits Joaquin Manuel (not his real name), a 33-year-old businessman, who did just that, "but my wife and I are happy that things were done according to our specifications."

Manuel adds that building your own house will also require more of your time—to process documents (which can be done for you by a broker if you buy a pre-constructed house), and to oversee construction. This is to avoid contractors pulling a fast one on you.

The added costs of building your own house will go to the architect (your lender will base the amount of your approved loan on the blueprint prepared by your architect) and the contractor.

(Next: Shopping for a home loan)



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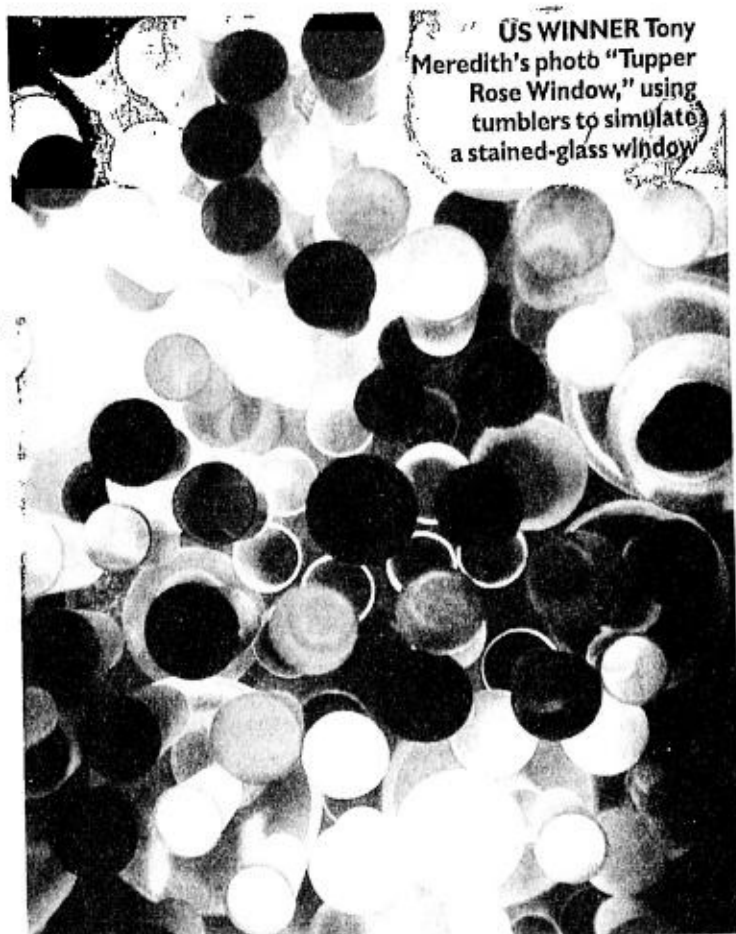
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THE LATIN American winning entry by Maria de Carmo Pinheiro Sinigaglia of Brazil features a colorful and practical clown-shaped kid's trunk made from one of Tupperware's top-selling products, a Thatsa Bowl.



US WINNER Tony Meredith's photo "Tupper Rose Window," using tumblers to simulate a stained-glass window

HJ Masniah of Indonesia, the Asia-Pacific winner, used more than 500 tumblers and sequin-decorated lids to create a wedding dress and necklace, inspired by their colors, shapes and textures.

PLASTIC MAKES PERFECT Art made from homeware

"ROBOTUPP" BY ELENA LIMOCON OF CEBU City is among more than 30 artworks included in a global tour of entries in a Tupperware-inspired art competition.

Top prizes in Translations in Tupperware, a global design contest, went to entries from Indonesia (Asia-Pacific), Brazil (Latin America), Greece (Europe/Middle East) and the United States.

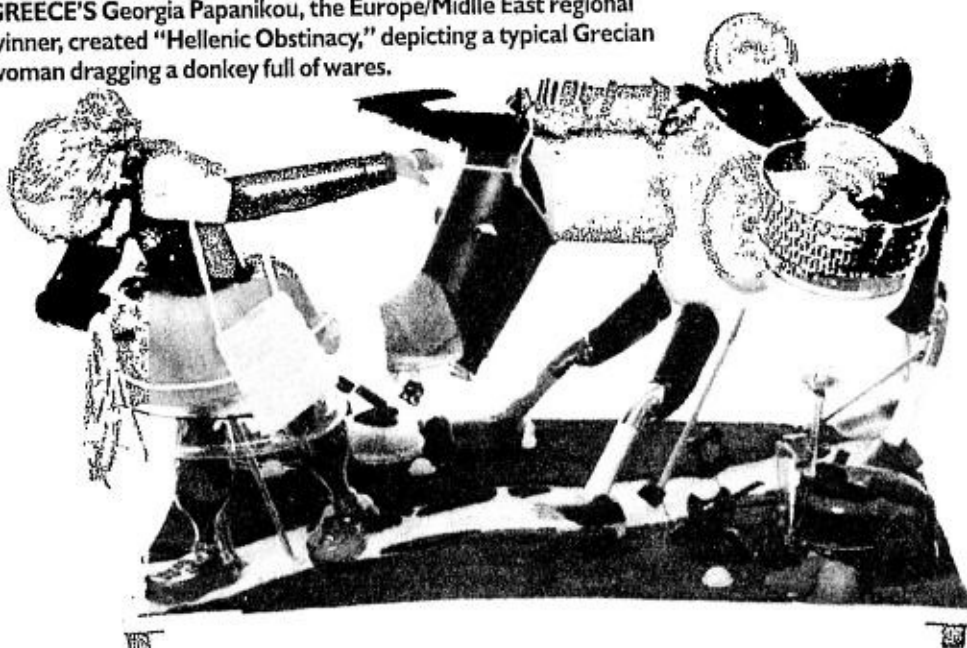
Though Limocon's work did not win, it was included in the internationally circulated souvenir program of the contest. She used a variety of Tupperware bowls and tumblers to create a colorful robot.

The winners and other entries in the first-ever competition is currently on a global tour. In Asia, it will be exhibited in Singapore.

More than 1,000 entries were received from around the world ranging from dresses to stained-glass window. A 10 ft-wide sculpture entitled "Hellenic Obscurity" depicted a Greek woman pulling a donkey carrying colorful items.

Winners were chosen by a panel that included Tupperware's former chief designer, John Michael Ekeblad, who said "some designs were mind-blowing."

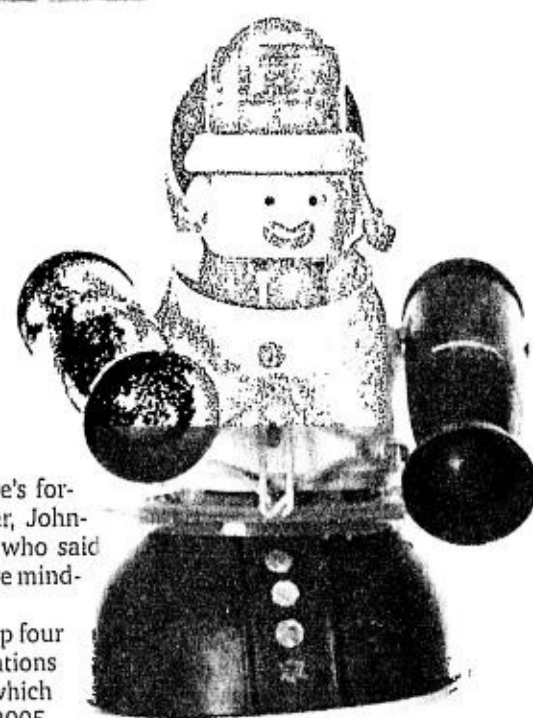
GREECE'S Georgia Papanikou, the Europe/Middle East regional winner, created "Hellenic Obscurity," depicting a typical Grecian woman dragging a donkey full of wares.



Prizes for the top four winners in Translations in Tupperware, which was launched in 2005, included a trip for two to New York City, US\$5,000 cash, and inclusion of the work in the global tour.

Tupperware Brands Corporation is a global direct seller of premium, innovative products across multiple brands and categories through an independent sales force of approximately 1.9 million.

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"ROBOTUPP," by Elena Limocon of Cebu, uses a variety of bowls and tumblers to create a robot to delight kids.

Gifts for the techie graduate

VISIT ANY BRANCH OF ELECTRONIC Boutique for graduation gift ideas all priced at P995.

The offer is good until April 15. Items available include a 128-MB personal MP3 player with support MP3 playback and voice recording.

Sanyo Micro Cassette Recorder has a voice-activated system while Edifier Speaker is ideal for use with an MP3, iPod, laptop, desktop computer, PDA, CD player and Discman.

Okion Sound Feeding Case, also called "speaker in a bag," is a sporty-looking outdoor storage bag that is speaker-enabled.

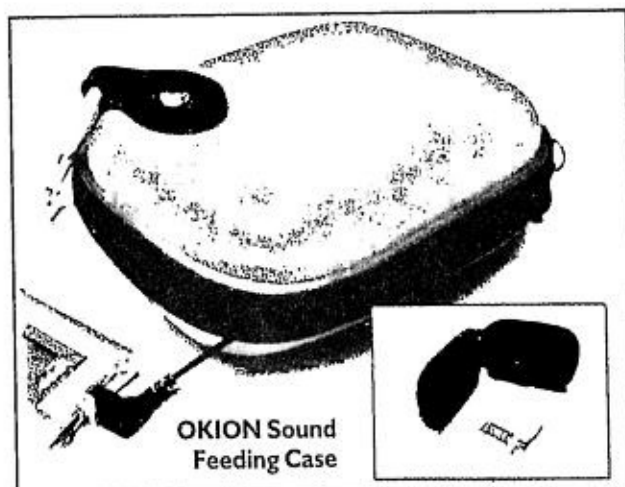
Kingston USB Data Traveler is a high-speed 2.0 USB flash drive for storing data, songs, photos and others.

CXCD 232 Coby portable CD/radio player has a programmable track memory. CXCD-109 personal CD player has a slim, compact design.

Bell Cordless Phone comes in fun colors of strawberry, grape, lime and blue.

Popcom Fold-up Amplified Portable Speaker is suitable for MP3 and music players with a 3.5-mm headphone/earphone output jack.

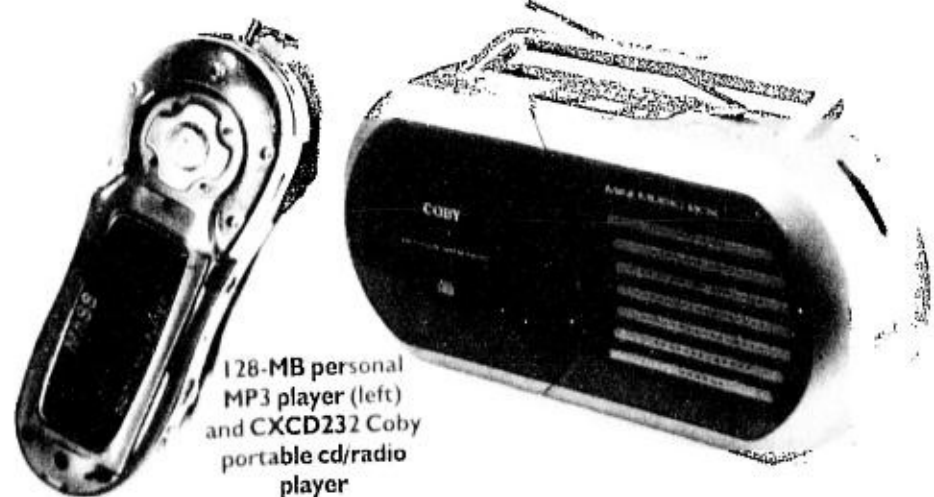
Visit Electronics Boutique at Park Square, Ayala Center; Robinsons Galleria, Market! Market! and Alabang Town Center. Call 8990102.



OKION Sound Feeding Case



ABOVE: Bellphones 39231 Cordless Phone. Right: Sanyo Micro Cassette Voice Recorder



128-MB personal MP3 player (left) and CXCD232 Coby portable cd/radio player





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Tapos sa isang kisapmata, may bahay ka na.
May matatawag na kaming "amin".

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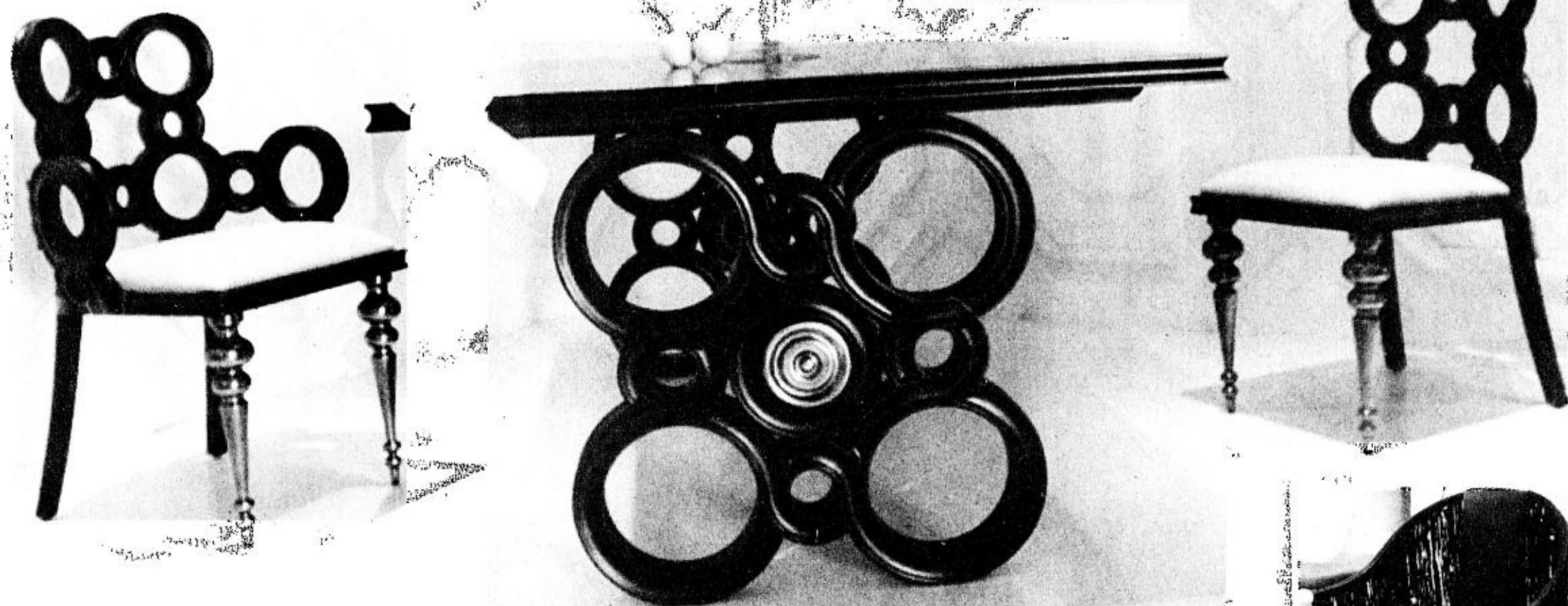
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The F4 of furniture



In Carlo Tanseco's stylebook, furniture should have form, function, familiarity, frivolity



LINKS dining set

By AA Patawaran
Contributor

CARLO S. TANSECO'S WORK turned heads at the recent Philippine International Furniture Show at the World Trade Center.

Even without sound, you could hear a flutter of wings. Without scent, you could smell flowers in bloom. You could turn a few steps back in time and recall some of your feats with the yo-yo, a 2,500-year-old toy reinvented in 1920 by a Filipino migrant in California, Pedro Flores.

His recent work is very whimsical, but Tanseco would rather put the whimsy in its right place, between quotes. "These 'whimsical' pieces comprise only a small portion of my body of work," explains the designer.

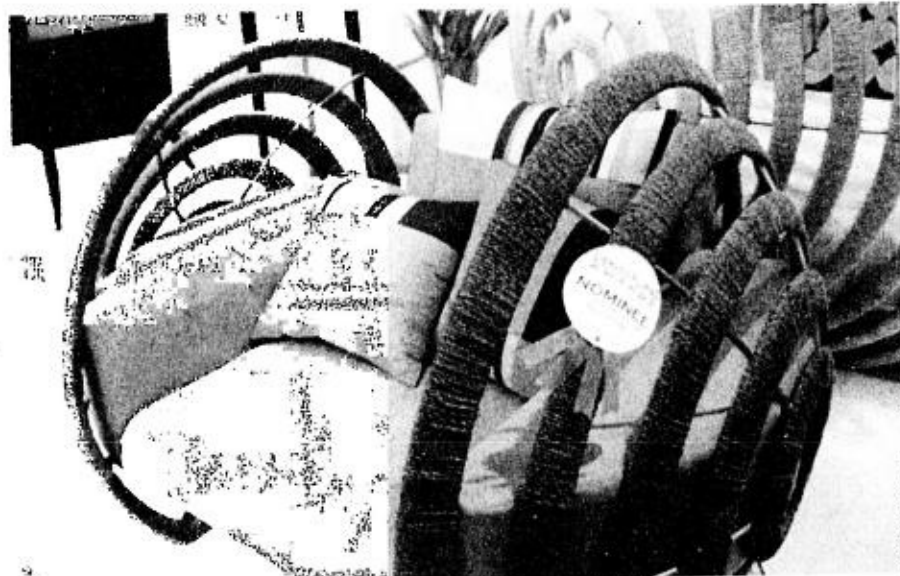
Nevertheless, form rather than function provides the character to any furniture. The challenge for any piece—a chair, a bed, a table—is to fulfill at least two criteria: accommodate bodies and serve as conversation pieces.

But to the imaginative mind, furniture is never limited to form and function. Tanseco's latest collections also triple as fun.

In fact, his design philosophy has four integral components. Form and function are only two of them. "Familiarity and frivolity are the other two," he says. "It's the combination of these four elements that make up my own brand of design."

An innate playfulness provides the oomph to the new collection. "They are 'hey-don't-take-yourself-too-seriously' pieces that do not lose their seriousness," says the multi-awarded young designer.

While these "fun" pieces, indeed, are perfect for spaces with a penchant for visual drama, such as fashionista homes, concept hotels, fashion boutiques, chic resorts and



YO-YO chair



SANDAL Wing Chair

stylish restaurants, they appeal to everyone, who, according to Tanseco, "has a playful side."

Tanseco draws his inspiration from everyday things around him. "My work is merely an interpretation of what God has already made beautiful," he says.

Thus, on display at his booth during the recent furniture fair was interchangeably a bird and a chair with wings designed for flight (Icarus chair) or a flower and a couch with petals spread out to catch a bee (Full Bloom). But should you find yourself screaming "fabulous," trust Tanseco to tell you to go and sit. It's just a chair, after all, but a chair exquisite enough to take you on a flight of fancy.

Show-biz glam

Anchored on the theme Hollywood Glam, Tanseco's Links and Sandal collection, one of his latest, launched at the Cebu X Furniture Show last February, is a tribute to the classics, an affair in wood and cast aluminum with a touch of opulence reminiscent of Hollywood in the '60s.

Again, however, each piece is reworked with Tanseco's sense of adventure, tongue in cheek. There is, admittedly, something voguish about the work, always in step with or ahead of trends. Tanseco's unshakeable focus on functionality and practicality, however, allows him to create timeless pieces.

Familiarity, in Tanseco's stylebook, is a grounding mechanism. "My initial reference is what history presents to us as a chair, table or bed," he says. "So as not to alienate them, people have to recognize and use my work as such."

His keen attention to the world around him, from the basic architecture of nature to new techniques in engineering, provides him with an orientation map on his forays into uncharted territories. This is how he draws the signature that the design world is now beginning to recognize as his own distinct mark.

Also Tanseco is driven by his personal mission to promote Philippine products and design. This mission has found expression in his crusade to elevate Philippine indigenous materials, which, having caught

the attention of the international design community, has resulted in, among others, a New York exhibition in his honor.

"Puzz, Feathers, and Beyond: An Exhibit on Renewable Material from the Philippines," held in January 2000 in New York, was a tribute to Tanseco's design efforts to showcase brilliant uses of such distinctly Filipino materials as rattan, capiz, shells, bamboo and, yes, tender feathers.

The work was described as "an indication of a new beginning in Philippine decorative arts" in this exhibition, presented by Material Connexion, the largest global resource for architects, engineers, industrial and interior designers, and manufacturers on the lookout for the latest, most innovative materials and processes from around the world.

Man with a mission

Indeed, there is soul to Carlo's work. More than artistic gratification, he feels most rewarded when his design input allows local manufacturers to expand their capabilities and increase their profitability.

The opportunity to work with local manufacturers gives him a great sense of fulfillment. It is perhaps in this light that Carlo has made consultancy a big part of his career in design, working with the likes of Center of International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), Ayala Museum and Ayala Land, which recently tapped him to design special seating areas within Glorietta.

His stint as a merchandise consultant to Citem has enabled him to work with over 42 export companies, sharing his priceless insights and guidance to improve their design capabilities, material expertise and merchandising directions.

Like his designs, Tanseco is unmistakably grounded, despite his many accolades here and abroad, which include numerous K.A.T.H.A. awards in various categories such as Best Product Design, Best Product Collection and Best Booth Design.

"A lot of my exposure comes from design-forward shows like Maison et Objet in Paris and Messe in Frankfurt," says Carlo, who also subjects himself to an experience affecting all his five senses in design capitals like New York, London and Hong Kong.

It is back home, however, that he downloads the yields of his multi-sensorial experiences, making sense of them as a Filipino artist and artisan at work.

Maison et Objet was among the first of international shows to give him chance to showcase his work as part of the prestigious Movement 8, a group of designers organized by Eli Pinto, the late Citem chief, to bring Philippine furniture to the four corners of the world.

Whether on his own and as part of a



MIDNIGHT Chair

Philippine delegation, he continues to wow the world, particularly Milan and Paris, where, recently, his Full Bloom chairs drew everyone in like bees to honey.

At home, Tanseco travels extensively to places like Cebu and Pampanga "where materials and skills abound," adds the designer. "And then to Tagaytay, Boracay or Palawan to turn to nature when all becomes too contrived and complicated."

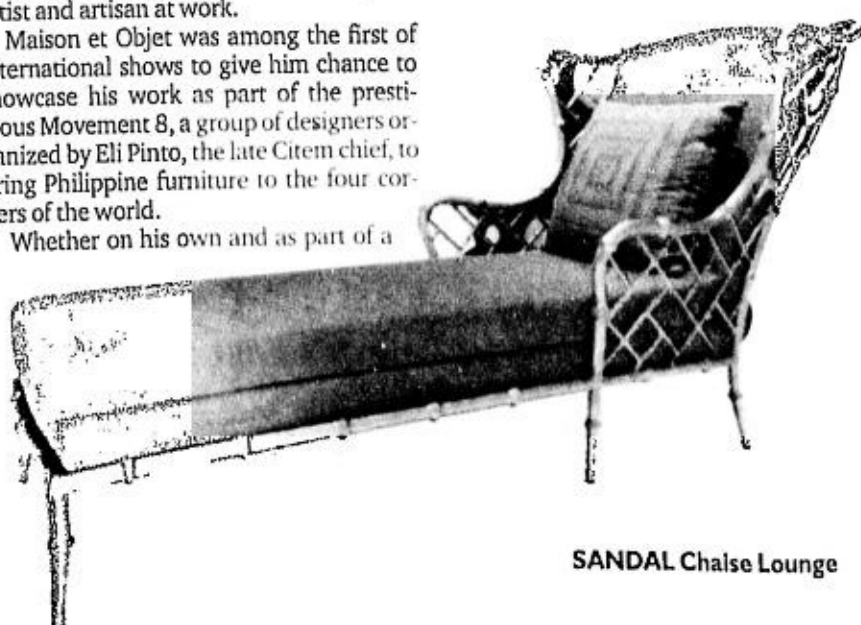
Tanseco's creative process is simple: "I always carry a notebook and pen with me, so I can jot down, draw and scribble whatever pops in my head."

In his book, design is a work in progress. His design heroes are everyone who has constructively contributed to the evolution of furniture, furnishings and architecture.

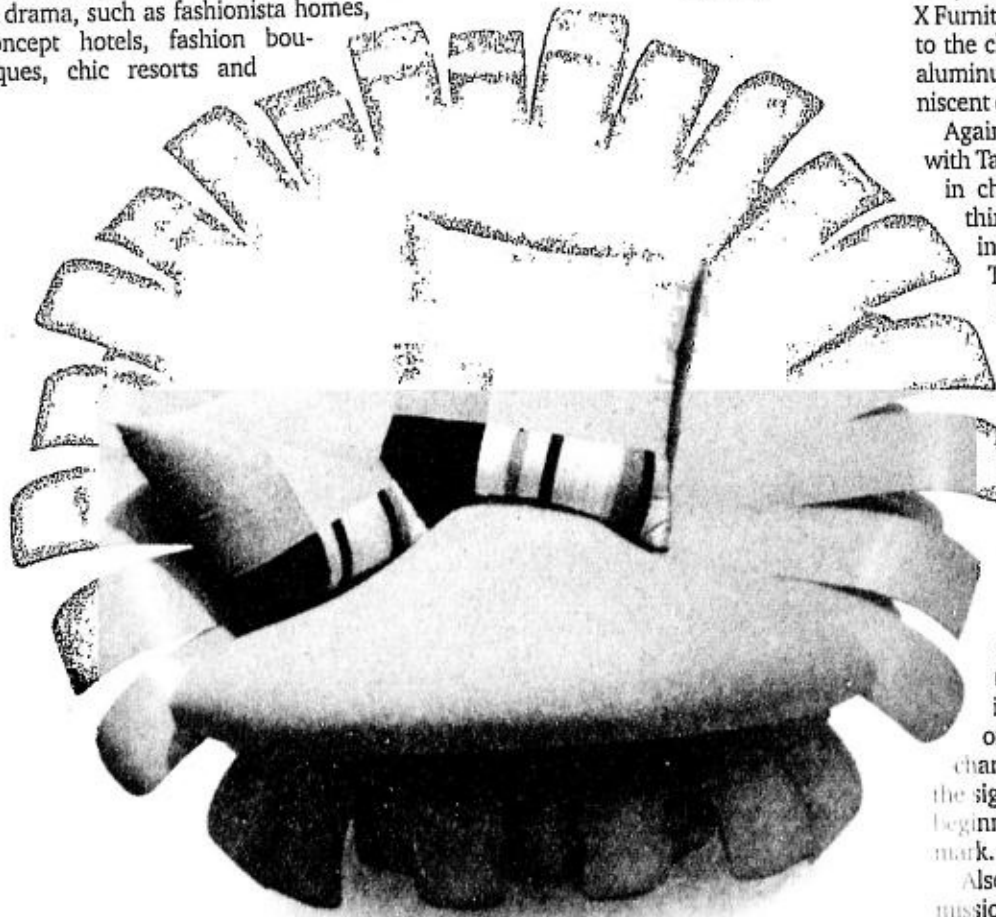
Asked to describe Philippine furniture, Carlo answers without a moment's hesitation, "Philippine furniture is like Philippine culture. It's an amalgamation of influences from all over the world because of our history of colonization. But (these influences are) interpreted through local skills and materials." Despite the lack of investment in technology and the influx of very affordable yet well-designed furniture from other countries, the young designer is looking forward to a great future.

"Our greatest strength is our creativity," beams Tanseco. "The future of furniture design in the Philippines is to take on the challenge of globalization. The world is getting smaller so we have to compete with a greater number of players who have more capital. More important, we have to differentiate ourselves by relying on our unique strengths."

Carlo S. Tanseco is represented by CAST management (e-mail: castmanagement@gmail.com). Full Bloom is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Domani at Stores 9 and 10 at New World Renaissance Hotel Arcade, Makati City.



SANDAL Chaise Lounge



FULL Bloom in orange

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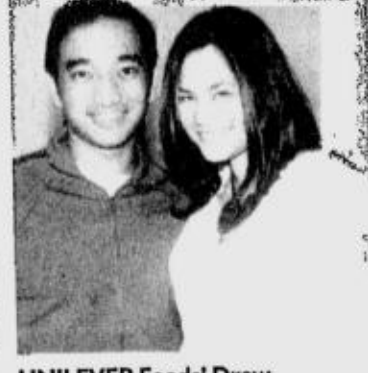
UNILEVER'S Gara Santos and Nora Valeriano



ALEX Dan Tacderas, category manager of Unilever Foods



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UNILEVER Foods' Drew Fernandez with Crystalle Henares



INQUIRER columnist Rina David and chairperson of National Women's Commission Myrna Yao



HABITAT owner Chris Lacson and Judith Manarang of ContempoMaze



PRETTY yoga girls Jana Victoria and Cutie del Mar



FAR EAST Furniture owners Rob Van Reisen, Daisy del Rosario and Paul Cornelissen



CHEF Masumi Tanabe between Charlie Rufino and Alfonso Kaw



YOGA master Bikram Choudhury and student Pye Trinidad

Sweat and shine with Bikram yoga



LADIES of Choice Doyee Tumpalan, Vicki Belo, Sea Princess, Sexy Chef sisters Rachel and Barni Alejandro, and Rissa Samson

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

THE DOGS

ACROSS	52 First Lady McKinley	112 Sports spot	15 The Milky Way, e.g.	57 Mongrel	90 The Everly Brothers'
1 Brewer's kiln	55 Pub potable	113 Yucatan	16 One who tolerates	58 "Pinalore" abbr.	"Let It —"
9 Goldberg of "Ghost"	57 Eat eagerly	114 Links accessory	17 Scientific name parts	59 Shikoku	91 Inc., in France
15 Choke	61 Breezy class	121 Annoy	19 Mormon	60 Phrase unit	92 QB's stats
18 Work on spec, perhaps	64 With 64-Down, Boeing 747, e.g.	122 Off base for vacation	21 Vittles	62 China's Chiang Kai- —	93 Spelling event
20 Jewelry for a piercing	65 Browed bread	123 Mother's sister	24 Singer Acuff	63 Reply to "Who, me?"	94 Suffix with east
22 "Honest" prez	66 "I'm So Excited" group	124 Comic Louis, as wood	31 "Ben- —"	64 See	95 Exertion
23 Guinness book entrant	72 Celestial ram	126 Gumbo vegetable	32 Bring joy to	65 Across	96 "The Gift of the Magi" author
25 Writer Yutang	74 Lhasa locale	127 Danson and Lange	33 "— asking?"	67 Oklahoma tribe	97 Withdraw
26 Pierre's gal pals	75 More unusual	DOWN	34 Water, to Somme people	68 VI halved	98 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role
27 — de Janeiro	77 Hoarse tone	1 Words after tug or sloop	35 Wayfarer's lodging	69 "ER" ailer	101 Jason's ship
28 Holy war	79 Sea bobbars	2 Fragrance	36 H.S. —	70 Gridiron gadget	102 Detroit team
30 Huck Finn's craft	83 Cashew, e.g.	3 Letter flourish	37 Census info	71 Sel- — (bravos)	103 Hole
31 Ali, for one	85 Snacked	4 Annual Jerry Lewis event	38 Gardner of films	72 "That's ill"	104 Slow, to Solli
37 Drag	86 Run a tab	5 Distant	42 River of central Africa	73 Road furrow	105 Store employee
39 Carol of "The Pajama Game"	87 Arctic coat	6 Small bill	43 Long essay	76 Sorry soul	107 Variety show
40 Gore Vidal's "Breckinridge" star	88 Befuddled	7 Capital of Ghana	44 In favor of	77 Beeties and Passats, briefly	108 Incessantly
41 Star signature seeker	90 Greyhound unit	8 Pope after Sergius II	45 Whack down	79 Checkbook amt.	109 Skin blemishes
47 The lass creator Jules	91 "Moonlighting" star	9 Pope after Sergius II	46 "— So Fine"	80 Internet address	112 Help
49 Nemo	95 Peeved	10 Parakes of pair	47 Lawn turf	81 Authorizes	115 Buggy area
50 Tundra's lack	98 Record part	11 Mined matter	48 Jeered	82 Lout	116 Corrupt
51 Unduly	99 "Kill — killed!"	12 Kitchen scrap	51 Low poker	84 Chantreuse	117 St. crosser
	100 Film noir classic	13 Full of tar	52 Sort of	85 SFPD alert	118 Guided
	106 Develop	14 Like neon	53 Uno, —, tres	89 Monkier for Alexander or Herod	119 Swabby
	110 Daydream		54 Hill dweller		120 Genetic letters
	111 — Mart		56 Help for the lost		

From page F8

to get into the poses. Pye even offers a "gentle" class on Fridays at 3 p.m. for those with injuries or those with "more mature" spines. The classes improve joint mobility and promote clarity of the mind.

An indirect benefit for me is time management. Because doors close when the sessions start, I can't be late. As Pye's classes are getting popular, latecomers stay in the small extension room or cannot be accommodated at all. Since I got my pilates-trained husband Dennis to join me, we are rarely late.

Recently, after countless invitations, we also tried the Bikram class of Tristan Choa, a former Rotary buddy of Dennis who just one day got burned out with the corporate world and took a 9-week training course (14 hours daily) from Bikram Choudhury in the US. His gigantic studio (contact no. 8891011) on the 15/F of 88 Corporate Center on Valero Street has several heaters that maintain a constant temperature of 36° C.

Once one gets used to the heat, the sessions are bearable. "Spinal final" is the code name of the last pose and is my favorite, next to "Savasana," the dead body pose. The physical, mental and emotional well-being of a person is greatly improved with any form of yoga, but Bikram has more noticeable results. Check out the website of Tristan (www.bikramyogamania.com) and get into the 30-day challenge program. An added benefit, according to my available novena buddy, Rosan Cruz, is that Tristan's studio is full of good-looking men.

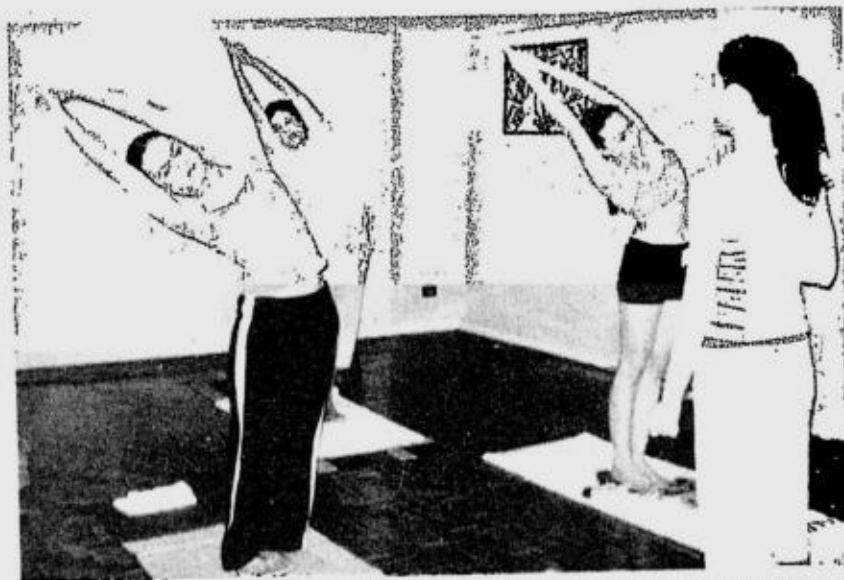
Full blast

Now that I have retaken the first steps toward long-term health and vitality, I intend to go full blast with the program. At the recent "Food For Thought" campaign of Lady's Choice, I exchanged thoughts with Sexy Chef owner Barni Alejandro (contact no. 9118881) about getting into the South Beach Diet even while breastfeeding.

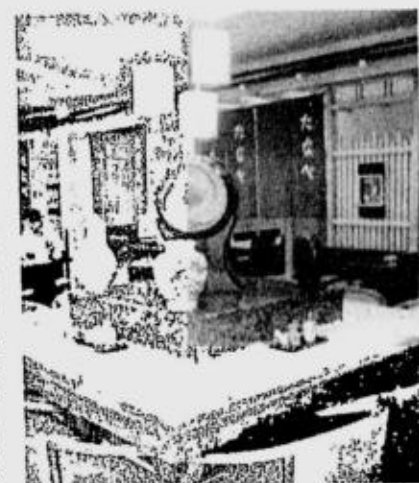
Originally, I thought this diet couldn't be reinvented for different situations since it was based on a strict menu combination. She enlightened me with the options and I am excited to start her program.

Her premiere package includes six meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner and two snacks) and is delivered to one's doorstep. It's all about eating healthy without cutting down on the yummy desserts that Barni also includes in her package.

At the National Women's Day Parade in Quezon City, Barni gave cooking tips using Lady's Choice mayonnaise to make a delicious, blended-mayo-and-cheese mix with prawns. I don't cook, so I was so amazed with the interesting flavors she brought out.



BIKRAM class of Pye Trinidad with students Hanna Lee Huang, mom Billie Trinidad and Marissa Tang



ELEGANT Japanese interiors of Tanabe Restaurant

Aside from model-perfect mom Rissa Samson, corporate executive Doyee Tumpalan and sexy singer Rachel Alejandro, a true Lady of Choice is Dr. Vicki Belo. She made the startling revelation that there is "good" fat such as pure olive oil, virgin coconut oil, soybean oil and canola. If one goes to the other end of the fat spectrum, the "bad" fat consumers end up in her clinic. For Vicki's setup, she actually made a mayo seasoned with calamansi juice and herbs.

At the launch held at the Metropolitan Museum, each of the five personalities had a Lady's Choice mayonnaise setting where guests took turns dipping into the various menus. One appetizing dip was megastar Sharon Cuneta's bagoong-laced mayo combo that had an interesting kick in every bite. Indeed, a little mega imagination can give birth to creative recipes.

Interesting pieces

Since I was already in the area, I passed by the Philippine International Furniture Show at the World Trade Center after the affair. Filipino creativity was integrated with the cutting-edge designs of internationally renowned Karim Rashid. Chris Lacson of Habitat also created some interest-



BIKRAM Yoga Manila instructor Tristan Choa

ing pieces at the fair.

Lately, a lot of my affairs have been in the Manila area. I am fascinated with the colorful lights along Roxas Boulevard. Though some may detest the tacky, globular light posts, one cannot deny that Mayor Lito Atienza has introduced a fresh breath of life into the strip, now attracting so many who promenade among the wooden benches and cafés.

Still in the Manila area, I discovered a wonderful Japanese restaurant called Tanabe (contact no. 5284688) in Remedios Circle, Malate. Formerly from Furusato, chef Masumi Tanabe opened his restaurant with enterprising partner Alfonso Kaw and will soon open a branch in Mall of Asia. His dishes, like Chutoro Sashimi (tuna belly that melts in the mouth) and Wagyu teppan (Japanese marbled beef), are simply divine. With food like this around, I wonder if I will go back to being a vegetarian.

Lent is in full swing and I have given up chocolate as a humble sacrifice. For a chocoholic, that's a huge sacrifice!

Any little offering is appreciated and helps make anyone a better person. As yoga guru BKS Iyengar says, "Yoga is a light, which, once lit, will never dim. The better your practice, the brighter the flame."

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph



NATIONAL Police Band playing at the National Women's Day Parade

answer on page D5

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Sweat and shine with Bikram yoga

MY LAST REMAINING POST-Athena baby fat demands desperate measures. These include belly dancing, flamenco, swimming, badminton and my new weekly favorite, Bikram yoga. Also known as "hot" yoga, this newest form of yoga is done in a controlled, heated environment pretty much like working out in an oven. Hence, I call it the Yoga Bake-off!

My first session with Bikram-trained instructor Pye Trinidad (cell 0917-8340659, e-mail gypsyogini@gmail.com) was totally exhausting, yet strangely energizing at the same time. Although I have been a yoga practitioner for more than five years, I find Bikram the most detoxifying of all since the 90-minute session, composed of a two-cycle series of 25 asanas (poses) and two pranayamas (breathing techniques), has everyone sweating like mad.

Drinking plenty of water throughout the

TESSA!



Tessa Prieto-Valdes

class is encouraged to replenish lost body fluids. Aside from the obvious weight loss, this whole process really cleanses the internal organs, aligns the spine, improves the nervous system and somehow reduces stress. It does take my mind away from shopping and credit card bills!

The biggest attraction for me is that you don't have to be a Chinese acrobat or ballerina

SWEAT/F6

The biggest attraction for me is that you don't have to be a Chinese acrobat or ballerina to get into the poses



GOVERNMENT employees join Sea Princess at the Lady's Choice booth.

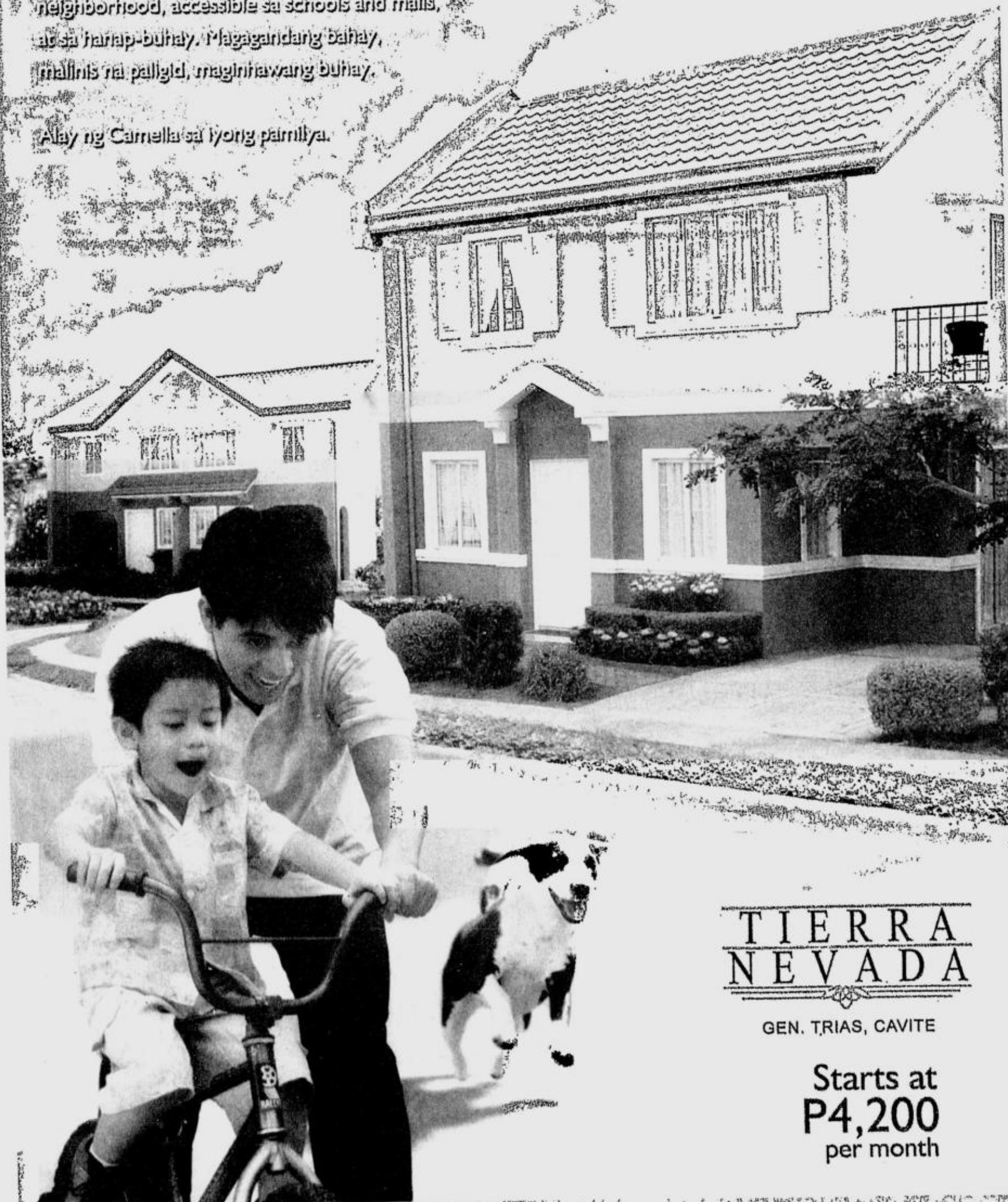
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Actual photo of a living room interior at Colina, San Pedro, Laguna



Entrance gate at Torressa, Imus, Cavite



Actual photo of a dining area at Torressa



Community park inside Colina, San Pedro, Laguna



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Republic of the Philippines

AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

Province of Lanao del Sur

SANGGUNIAN PANLALAWIGAN

Capitol Complex, Buadi Sacayo, Marawi City



EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIAN PANLALAWIGAN OF LANAOS DEL SUR, HELD IN ITS SESSION HALL, NEW CAPITOL COMPLEX, BUADI SACAYO, MARAWI CITY ON FEBRUARY 28, 2006.

PRESENT:

HON. ROLAN ABDULRASHID A. MACARAMBON,
HON. ALEXANDER G. ALONTO, Jr.
HON. KAMAL P. MACASUNDIG,
HON. SHIRALI S. SANI,
HON. TOLAWIDAN B. DIMAPORO,
HON. SAMIM R. USMAN,
HON. MACASIDAR S. SARIP,
HON. MORSALIM A. TOMINORAY,
HON. ABDULRASHID A. BALINDONG,
HON. TOHAMY L. DOMADO,
HON. ALONGANA M. MACARAMPAT,

Acting Presiding Officer;
Sanggunian Member;
Sanggunian Member;
Sanggunian Member;
Sanggunian Member;
Sanggunian Member;
Sanggunian Member;
Sanggunian Member;
Ex-Officio Member;
Ex-Officio Member;
Ex-Officio Member;

RESOLUTION NO. 339.06

Series of 2006

"A RESOLUTION OF FULL AND UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF LANAOS DEL SUR TO THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO"

WHEREAS, during this crucial period, the country needs a tested leader with the determination to go against all odds to save the Republic and the Filipino people from chaos and hunger;

WHEREAS, the declaration of a state of national emergency is a judgment call of the presidency which is in a better position to know what is good to the country and for its people;

WHEREAS, military adventurists and greedy politicians have no place in a society where the rule of law is observed, and these destabilizers deserve the wrath of the people and the full weight of the law;

NOW, THEREFORE, on unanimous motion duly seconded, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan has –

RESOLVED as it is hereby **RESOLVED** to convey the full and unwavering support of the provincial government and the people of Lanao del Sur to the leadership of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

RESOLVED FURTHER to submit copies of this resolution to all concerned offices and the Office of the President, for guidance and information.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Done this 28th day of February, 2006, at New Capitol Complex, Buadi Sacayo, Marawi City, Philippines.

HON. ALEXANDER G. ALONTO, Jr.
Sanggunian Member

HON. TOLAWIDAN B. DIMAPORO
Sanggunian Member

HON. MACASIDAR S. SARIP
Sanggunian Member

HON. KAMAL P. MACASUNDIG
Sanggunian Member

HON. SAMIM R. USMAN
Sanggunian Member

HON. MORSALIM A. TOMINORAY
Sanggunian Member

HON. SHIRALI S. SANI
Sanggunian Member

HON. TOHAMY L. DOMADO
Ex-Officio Member

HON. ALONGANA M. MACARAMPAT
Ex-Officio Member

HON. ABDULRASHID A. BALINDONG
Ex-Officio Member

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing resolution.

ATTESTED:

HON. ABDULRASHID A. MACARAMBON
Acting Vice-Governor/Acting Presiding Officer

ATTY. COSAIN M. MACARAMBON
Secretary to the Sanggunian

APPROVED:

HON. BAE MONERA D. MACABANGON
Acting Provincial Governor

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March 31, 2006

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444 EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City

or

Applications for the position of Base Administrator / Logistician, please send by email to:

achfilipinas@pldtel.net

Applications for the position of Head of the Food Security Project please send by email to:

Vincent Mervoyer

FS coordinator

Accion Contra el Hambre
fscoordo_achfilipinas@yahoo.com

Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that CEBU PACIFIC has **not** authorized, accredited nor certified **CAPT. LEVY SAREN** and/or his company **FS STANDARD PHILIPPINES** General Aviation Services as an accredited buyer of scrap Cebu Pacific aircraft and parts. Cebu Pacific also denies having issued any spurious documents bearing the name and logo of Cebu Pacific aircraft DC. Likewise, Cebu Pacific also denies any participation in any falsified A/C Registration Certificates bearing our retired A/C non-existent tail numbers.

Furthermore, Cebu Pacific also denies any liability or responsibility whatsoever arising from or in connection to the aforementioned accreditation and certification of Capt. Levy Saren and/or FS Standard Philippines.

It is requested that any party who has been shown or given any of the abovementioned documents to immediately contact Cebu Pacific.

(PDI- March 5, 12 & 19, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Ma. Teresita
C. Bernal



Maritess Siwa



Treysie Joanne
Baloy

Please be informed that the above mentioned individuals whose name and picture appear above are no longer connected with **TEMPS AND STAFFERS, INC.**

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(PDI - March 19, 2006)

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Notice is hereby given that **SHINWOOD PHILIPPINES APPAREL, INCORPORATED** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as a **New Export Producer of Garments** with a capacity of 600,000 dozens per year and with project / plant site located at **National Road, Gardenville II, Tayuman, Binangonan, Rizal**.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director

Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI-March 19, 2006)

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POEA TOP PERFORMERS AWARD

DOLE secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas hands the POEA Top Performers Award to **Samuel A. Laus**, general manager of **Eureka Personnel and Management Services, Inc.** during the 2005 Agency Performance Awards night held at the Manila Pavilion on Jan. 31, 2006. POEA administrator **Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz** and **DOLE** undersecretary **Danilo P. Cruz** are among the VIPs also gracing the occasion.



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

LICENSE FOR PRIVATE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT AGENCY

PRPA LICENSE NO. M-06-02-035
TIN NO. 004-668-504-000

☐ New ☒ Renewal

This license to recruit, process and deploy landbased workers is hereby granted to

STAFF ALLIANCE, INC.
Unit 404 Vicente Madrigal Bldg.
6793 Ayala Avenue
Makati City

pursuant to the Labor Code and the Omnibus Rules Implementing the Code.

This license shall be valid for the period 10 January 2005 to 09 January 2007 unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended for violation of the Labor Code and related issuances. Transfer or use by any other person or entity renders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, to be affixed at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 28th day of February 2006.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

(Renewal of this license is thirty (30) days before expiration date)

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OBITUARIES

GERARDO F. SANTOS

October 3, 1928 - March 17, 2006

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Leony**; children **Evelyn** and **Rick Howell**, **Lisa** and **Jimmy Ysmael**, **Ellen** and **Jun Fresco**, **Boyett** and **Boots Santos**, **Estela** and **Ike Ramos**, **Eleanor** and **Jong Medenilla**, **Jun-jun**, and **Edna** and **Boyett Arevalo**; grandchildren **Moey**, **Jenny**, **Julian**, **Jiza**, **Jaren**, **Camille**, **Ian**, **Jeline**, **Louie**, **Lawrence**, **Aikee**, **Denise**, **Arielle**, **Derek**, **Nicole**, **Iggy** and **Anton**; sisters **Marietta** and family, and **Shirley** and family; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Sta. Rita Parish Mortuary, Philam Homes, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, March 23, 2006 at the Himlayang Pilipino Cemetery, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"I will bless you and make your name great;
and you shall be a blessing."
Genesis 12:2

LEONARDO DE SILVA UMALE

Now rests in the infinite warmth of our Lord.
He joined our Creator on March 16, 2006 at the age of 58.

His wife **CLARISSA**; Children **CATHERINE**, **JOHN**, **JOJO**, **TIN-TIN**, **GUIA**, **MICHELLE**; Mother **FELISSA**; Grandchildren **DANIELLE**, **MARCUS**, **TIFFANY**, **LEONARD**, **JUSTIN**, **CAMILLE**, **DARYLL**; Sisters **CHIT**, **FE**, **MELLY**, **LOU**, **JULIE** and **ELLEN** request relatives and friends to join them in prayers for his eternal repose.

His remains now lie in state at the Umale residence.

Holy Mass will be offered at the Christ the King Church,

Greenmeadows, Pasig on Sunday,
March 19, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.

We design
obituaries
for free.



The Missionary Benedictine Sisters
St. Scholastica's Priory, Manila

announce the death of

Sister Mary Sylvester Marpa, OSB

at St. Benedict's Home, Marikina
on March 17, 2006 at the age of 78.

She is survived by her brothers and sisters:
Florentino, **Luz**, **Archimedes**, **Feliciano** and **Prudencia**.

Her remains lie in state
at St. Scholastica's Chapel, Manila.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park,
Sucat Parañaque on March 21, 2006, Tuesday,
after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass to be presided by
Bishop **Filomeno Bactol** and concelebrated by
Fr. **Jess Py** and her nephew, Fr. **Ric Marpa**.

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Death Notice

LUIS E. REBUSTILLO

July 23, 1949 -
March 17, 2006

His body lies at
Blk 5, Lot 11 SNK1
Agape, Capitol
Parkhomes, Camarin,
Caloocan City.

Interment will be on
March 25, 2006 at
Holy Cross,
Novales, Quezon City.

Dad, you are gone...
But you remain in our hearts forever.

COL. JOSE CAYCO ESPINOSA PA (Ret.)

(November 16, 1928 - March 17, 2006)

PMIA Class '54

Fort Bonifacio - Camp Commander 1983

Peacefully cross-over from us to the everlasting love of the father at the age of 77.

He is survived by his children **Angelo** and **Luisa**, **Apollinar** and **Lady**, **Ariel**, **Aristotle** and **France** and **Jhannel**; grandchildren **Alvin**, **Melody**, **ICJ**, **Glancarlo**, **David** and **Nicole**; brothers **Benjamin**, **Brigitte** and sisters **Juliet** and **Lucey**.

The bereaved family, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later

Contact Person: **Ajle** (0918-7073277) • **Jay** (0921-3029609)

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(Commonwealth, Makati, Ortigas, or Alabang)

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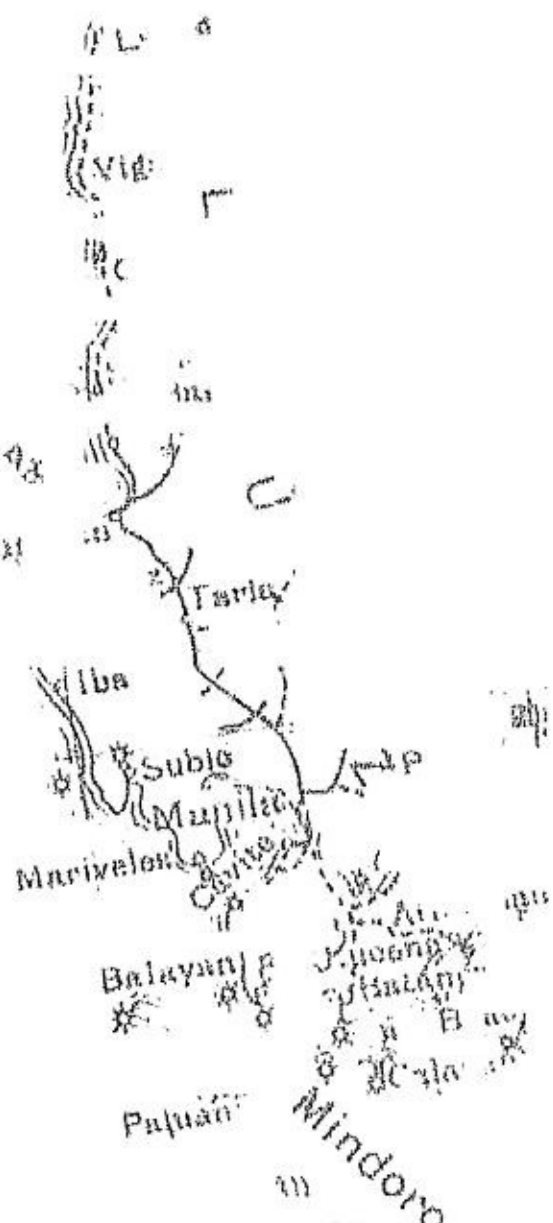
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(02)857 7700

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinsons Equitable Tower, #4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City
(02)857 7688

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone, Muntinlupa City
(02)758 1688

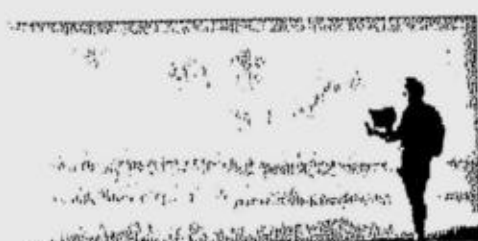
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Software Performance Testing Engineer

- Experience in analyzing and tuning SQL database performance
- Experience in the use of performance measurement tools
- Experience in the use of load testing tools
- Experience in conducting methodical performance evaluations
- Knowledge of Performance Engineering concepts
- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management

Release Manager

- 5 years of relevant experience, including at least 2 years of release/project management and 3 years of development/integration/testing experience with complex software projects.
- Strong experience in Release Management, Quality Assurance and Project Management.
- Experience organizing, planning, and leading multiple projects from initiation through closing.
- Knowledge of SEI Capability Maturity Model - Integrated (CMMi), Six Sigma, ISO 9001:2000 etc.
- Experience in software development processes, models, lifecycles and methodologies.
- Familiarity with ERP applications domain.

Software Engineer - Integration

- Professional experience in one or more of the following: applicable programming languages, release engineering, software engineering process
- Knowledge of source software configuration management and change management tools and processes.
- Works with senior engineers to ensure project and design fit into the overall build, packaging, and deployment architecture.
- Analyzes and documents impact of the product or feature on other tools and processes.

Senior Software Engineer – Systems

- Five years of systems programming experience.
- Knowledge of object-oriented analysis, design, programming and tools
- Significant working experience using UNIX and/or Windows and programming languages such as C/C++, Visual C++, Java and EJB.
- Preferably with experience in COBOL, Prolog or any legacy system
- Proficient problem solving, interviewing and fact finding skills
- Strong analytical and technical skills, team work and organizational skills
- Self-motivation and discipline, ability to multi-task
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Applications Software Engineer – Retail Solutions

- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management
- Good working knowledge of object-oriented design, analysis, data structures/algorithms, programming methodologies and tools
- Proven track record in developing and supporting the most complex application programs using various programming languages, technologies and development tools
- Sound knowledge of VB6, Desktop and Webclass/ASP; ADO Connections/Commands/Recordsets; embedded ActiveX controls; HTML, DHTML, JavaScript/VBScript, CSS, SML (XSL,XSLT), VB.Net, Windows and Web Applications, SGV (XML Graphics); C/C++
- Java is required.

Retail Business Systems Analyst

- Application experience specific to retail business systems
- Experience with business object modeling tools and/or entity relationship modeling tools
- Ability to represent requirement and design information in graphical forms that augment textual representations, including using modeling tools and languages already established in the development organization
- Technical knowledge or experience with one or more of the following: web-based business applications, relational databases, and client server architecture
- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management

Technical Writer

- 2 to 6 years technical writing experience, with 2 years software documentation experience
- Ability to write documentation that is technically accurate and conforms to the company's writing style guidelines
- Experience using industry-standard tools such as FrameMaker, RoboHelp, Arbotext Epic, Dreamweaver, and content management systems
- Experience with markup languages, such as XML, SGML, or HTML
- Experience with graphics tools, such as Visio and Paint Shop Pro
- Experience creating deliverables for audiences ranging from end-user to highly technical
- Strong planning, research, and writing skills
- Ability to perform effectively in a fast-paced, growth-oriented, rapidly changing company. Excellent time management, problem-solving, analytical/critical thinking, organization skills and cross-functional communication experience

Senior Software Engineer – Quality

- Proficient creating test designs and test plans and execution of test cases/scripts
- Proficient in understanding integration & regression testing
- Proficient in automation test tools and test framework development
- Proficient in various hardware, operating systems, web/application servers and relational databases, ERP Applications and Microsoft office products
- Experience in structured and object oriented application development and SQL programming
- Experience in various programming languages, such as: C, C++, HTML, Cobol, Visual Basic, and Java
- Experience in white box API level testing and defect tracking
- Knowledge of automated testing tools (Rational Robot, Silktest, WinRunner, etc.)

Support Specialists

- Must be able to support and troubleshoot technologies relating to the following: platforms (UNIX/NT, Windows, and iSeries), networks (Microsoft, etc.), languages (COBOL, RPG, Java, Java Script, XML, and HTML), relational databases (Oracle, DB2, SQL Server, and DB2), Tivoli directory server, Microsoft ADAM, O/S scripting and web technologies.
- Must be able to support Lawson user interfaces utilized on all supported platforms.
- Must possess and demonstrate the ability to perform program analysis, testing and debugging and provide team members with assistance in resolving customer problems.
- Must be able to effectively communicate complex technical information with both internal and external customers.
- Must maintain expertise on current and new technologies. Advanced ERP (business and technical), WebSphere and/or database experience preferred.

UNIX Systems Administrator

- At least one (1) year of programming experience (ksh, bash)
- Level 1 certification of at least one vendor's Unix operating system and/or equivalent experience
- Solid understanding of general disk management, memory management, process management and general kernel/OS tuning
- Ability to back-up and recover a base server using native OS tools

Senior Applications Administrator

- At least five (5) years experience in applications administration
- Expertise in one or more of the major UNIX OS's in the industry
- At least five (5) years experience in tuning and configuring large enterprise applications in a live customer environment and benchmark environment

PC Technician

- Two (2) years experience as computer technician.
- Microsoft MCP certification.
- Hardware manufacturer certifications.
- Printer training and technical support experience.

Software Engineer for ITS

- Technical expert in one or more highly specialized areas of applications systems analysis and programming
- Designs, codes, tests, debugs documents and maintains those programs. Competent to work on most phases of applications systems analysis and programming activities but requires instruction and guidance in other phases.
- 3 years experience programming in HTML, Java, JavaScript, XML, XSL, XSLT, etc.
- 1-2 years experience with application servers (WebSphere, Tomcat, JBoss or Cold Fusion, etc.)
- 1-2 years experience with Java Servlets/Applets and EJB
- 1-2 years experience with development frameworks (Struts, Xpresso, etc.)

HR Compensation Coordinator

- 3 years previous Human Resource or comparable experience
- Experience working with HRMS systems
- Demonstrated ability to maintain confidential data
- High degree of accuracy and work quality
- Strong analytical skills

Manager/Accountant – Software Revenue Recognition

- CPA Preferred (Law or MBA advantageous)
- 2+ years experience specific software related revenue recognition
- 6+ years in accounting and reporting in a medium to large company
- Ability to understand complex business contract negotiations and make solid recommendations that meets the customer's objectives and protects revenue recognition
- Good systems skills/accounting software package proficiency
- Demonstrated ability to apply US GAAP to specific business situations
- Willing to relocate to Europe for 1-2 years

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(Administration Department)

He shall be responsible for the direct supervision and control over the administrative functions of the company. He is expected to systematize administrative work and procedures. He must have extensive experience in the areas of general services, warehouse and inventory control, grounds and building maintenance, security & safety, and purchasing.

The candidates should be 40 years old or below, of good moral character and a graduate of any business or engineering-related course, preferably with MBA units. They must have at least three (3) years supervisory experience in medium-to-large scale business entity.

SALES ENGINEERS

(Manila and Cebu-Based)

They will be responsible in sourcing out clients/customers and coordinating with architects and consultants, preparing cost estimates in accordance with bid specifications, generating sales, preparing contract documents and ensure acceptance by the client and coordinating with other trade contractors. The product line is either Mitsubishi elevators and escalators or airconditioning equipment or diesel generators.

The candidates must be between 21 and 28 years old, of good moral character and a graduate of any business or engineering-related course from a reputable school. Experience in sales of the said equipment is not required but an advantage.

MOTORIZED COLLECTOR

(Accounting Department)

He is expected to perform tasks related to credit and collection functions ensuring proper monitoring, collection and documentation of accounts in accordance with the established policies and procedures.

The candidates should be 30 years old or below, of good moral character and must have at least two (2)-year college education (specifically Accounting course), holder of a valid driver's license under restriction codes 1 & 2 and preferably with experience in collection.

The ideal applicants for the said job vacancies must be aggressive, responsible, determined, honest, result-oriented, self-disciplined, with strong leadership qualities, team worker, courteous, good in written and oral communication, with high tolerance for stress, can relate to other employees of the Company and computer literate (MS Office).

Applicants should come personally not later than April 10, 2006 with resumé, photo-copy and original of transcript of records, diploma and 2x2 picture to:

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Fax # 8423160 / 8053706
E-mail: jevasalinda.calleja@iee.com.ph

For Cebu-based applicants you may proceed to:
Rm. 301 Richmond Plaza Center, F. Sotto Drive, Cebu City
Tel. # (032) 2324270 / 2324288
Fax # (032) 2324283
E-mail: ieecebu@iee.com.ph

POSITION: Resident Advisor A2Z Project/The Philippines

The A2Z Project is a multi-country USAID-funded project providing technical assistance and expertise to strengthen and implement micronutrient programs to improve the nutrition and health of vulnerable populations. A2Z in The Philippines will work with national and local government institutions, partner NGOs, private sector and research institutions to integrate micronutrients into a range of health programs. Technical intervention areas include vitamin A coverage, anemia reduction, food fortification, and mainstreaming micronutrients. The Manila-based Resident Advisor will manage in-country activities; liaise between partners, USAID/The Philippines, and A2Z/HQ; and will manage the technical and support team to ensure quality programming, monitoring, and financial management.

Required: Advanced degree in nutrition, public health, program management, or related field; minimum five years experience in international health program management; experience in strategic planning, program design, monitoring and evaluation; experience working with high-level government officials, donors, NGOs, private sector and community-based organizations.

Preferred: USAID program management experience; experience in public health/nutrition data analysis. Submit cover letter and resumé by **Friday, March 24, 2006** to **Academy for Educational Development**, 8/Fir. Ramon Magsaysay Center, Roxas Boulevard, Malate 1004, Metro Manila, Attention: Office Manager; or email: a2z-Philippines@aed.org. No phone calls will be honored.



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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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Technical Support
Representatives
Customer Service Associates**

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- Corporate Asset Management Specialist
- Front Desk Associates
- OD Officer (OD Consulting)
- OD Officer (Career Development)
- Payroll Assistants
- Recruiting Specialists
- Applications Developer
- IT Help Desk Associates
- IT Project Leaders
- Senior Applications Developer
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EXCELLENT ENGLISH communication skills.
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Previous outbound calling a plus, but not required.
Willing to work during U.S. business hours

Quality Assurance Specialist

Has at least 1 year outbound calling experience.
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Willing to work between 6am-3pm



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Knowledgeable in statistics and documentation.
Experienced in reporting to Management and Clients.



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- College graduate in a business-related field
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PRINTING CHIEF SECTION HEAD - Male; 27-40 yrs. old; graduate of any engineering course or related field; w/ at least 3 yrs. supervisory exp. in printing; w/ high-level analytical & problem-solving skills; To be assigned in Caloocan area.

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DATA ENCODERS - M/F; w/ pleasing personality; comp. lit; business course/IT grad.

PERIPHERAL OPERATORS - Male; graduate of any 4-yr. course; comp. lit; w/ pleasing personality

ACCOUNTING CLERKS - M/F; Accounting grad; comp. lit.

RECEPTIONIST/ADMIN CLERK - Female; 23-28 yrs old; w/ good comm. skills; w/ pleasing personality; graduate of any 4-yr. course. To be assigned in Ortigas area.

PROMO REP./MERCHANDISERS - M/F; 18-28 yrs old; at least high school grad; at least 5'2" in ht.; w/ good comm. skills; w/ pleasing personality; w/ clear complexion

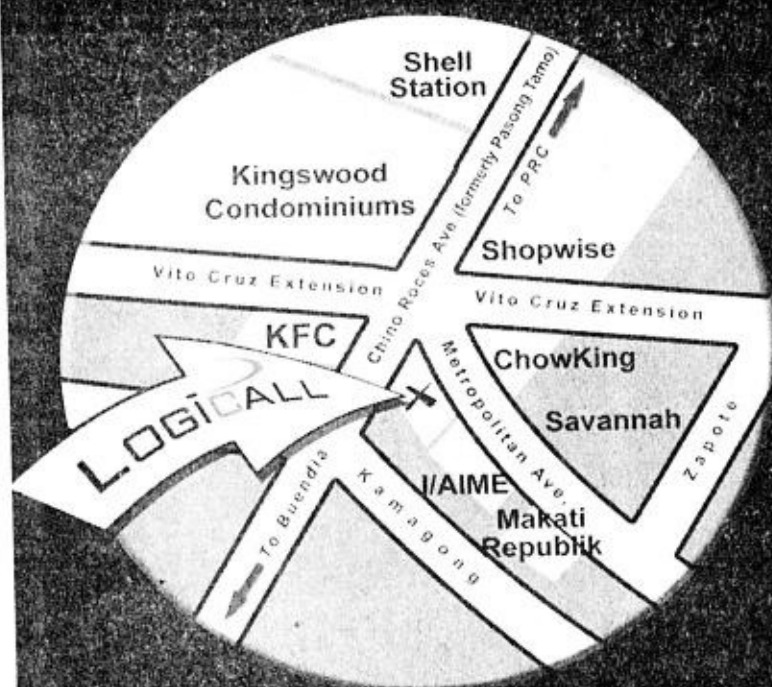
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- With good communication and time management skills (flexible)
- Computer Literate
- Fluent in English and Filipino
- Willing to travel
- Knowledgeable in doing technical designs and plans

Admin. Assistant

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any 4-year course

SALES ENGINEER

Qualifications:

- Graduates of ECE, Comp. Eng'g
- With good communication and time management skills (flexible)
- Highly motivated and determined
- Selling experience is an advantage
- Computer Literate
- Fluent in English and Filipino
- Willing to travel
- Knowledgeable in doing technical designs and plans

- With good communication and time management skills (flexible)
- Computer Literate (esp. excel)
- Fluent in English and Filipino
- Willing to do liaison works
- Honest and hardworking

Submit your resumes at Room 303 Golden Sun Realty Corporation, # 29 Mindanao Avenue, Pag-asa, Q. C.

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College graduate, not more than 35 years old, with at least 5 years work experience as a Trainor preferably in the real estate industry. Must be able to assess the training requirements of the Sales and Marketing Group and develop and conduct the training programs based on said needs. Excellent oral and written communication skills. Proficiency in MS Office is required. Preferably residing in Parañaque City or nearby areas. Can start immediately.

SALES COORDINATOR

College graduate, not more than 35 years old, with at least 5 years work experience as a Sales Coordinator in the real estate industry. Preferably with a ready pool of real estate brokers and agents. Must be able to organize, develop and manage an effective Sales Group. Must know how to design and develop marketing plans, promotional and public relation programs. Computer literate, excellent in both oral and written communication skills. Preferably residing in Parañaque City or nearby areas. Can start immediately.

Submit your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 photo at: 6F Queensway Bldg., 118 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Tel. No. 893-9344 to 46

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The Project Enhancing Capacity for the Effective Management of Official Development Assistance, funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is in search of qualified candidates for the short-term engagements as **Programmers, Systems Analyst and Web/ ASP Developer** to be based at the NEDA Office in Pasig City.

The project aims to strengthen effective management of Official Development Assistance (ODA) through greater information linkage and exchange with ODA partners on development and fiscal planning, investment programming, public expenditure management and results monitoring.

ODAMS¹ Programmer – The engagement is for 3 man-months

Scope of Work:

- Based on the program specifications, refine and complete the ODA Monitoring System (ODAMS) using Oracle tools (Developer 2000, SQL and / or TOAD). Specifically, the programmer shall:
 - Fix programming errors/bugs in all modules of the ODAMS
 - Develop/ enhance certain modules in the ODAMS. This includes the development of the facility to link the data from the PPMS to ODAMS and vice versa for some cases.
 - Integrate unique functionalities of the ODA Loans Data Management System (developed using MS Access) to the ODAMS
 - Migrate data from the ODA Loans Data Management System to the ODAMS
- Coordinate with the systems analyst in systems design and development
- Ensure the developed programs comply with the program specifications provided by the systems analyst
- Test and fix the system to ensure smooth operation
- Coordinate with the systems analyst in the testing procedure, to include preparation of test cases and performing parallel testing
- Assist the systems analyst in the preparation of the ODAMS User's Manual and conduct of User's Training
- Properly disclose and turn over to NEDA the complete and updated source codes relative to the development of the ODAMS
- Provide 3-months warranty (to cover at least one reporting period) after turn-over and acceptance by NEDA of all systems developed

Qualifications:

- Has at least 2 years experience in SQL (simple and complex) and / or TOAD (Tool for Oracle Application Developers), Oracle Developer 2000 (Forms and Reports) and Oracle RDBMS 8/8i/9i/10g
- Has at least 2 years experience in systems development and should have completed at least 1 functional system
- Has at least 2 years experience in MS Access programming and database management
- Has developed at least 1 project involving data migration from MS Access to Oracle database

PPMS² Programmer – The engagement is for 5 man-months

Scope of Work:

- Based on the program specifications, refine and complete the Project Proposal Monitoring System (PPMS) using Oracle tools (Developer 2000, SQL and / or TOAD) and Oracle DB 8i. Specifically, the programmer shall:
 - Develop all modules of the PPMS
 - Integrate unique functionalities of the Public Investment Staff (PIS) Projects Database and Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) Project Appraisal Monitor (IPAM) to the PPMS
 - Migrate data from the PIS Projects Database and IPAM to the PPMS. The PIS Projects Database and IPAM are both developed using MS Access.
- Coordinate with the systems analyst in systems design and development
- Ensure the developed programs comply with the program specifications provided by the systems analyst
- Test and fix the systems to ensure smooth operation
- Coordinate with the systems analyst in the testing procedure, to include preparation of test cases and performing parallel testing
- Assist the systems analyst in the preparation of the PPMS User's Manual and conduct of User's Training
- Properly disclose and turn over to NEDA the complete and updated source codes relative to the development of the PPMS
- Provide 3-months warranty after turn-over and acceptance by NEDA of all systems developed

Qualifications:

- Has at least 2 years experience in SQL (simple and complex) and / or TOAD (Tool for Oracle Application Developers), Oracle Developer 2000 (Forms and Reports) and Oracle RDBMS 8/8i/9i/10g
- Has at least 2 years experience in systems development and should have completed at least 1 functional system
- Has at least 2 years experience in MS Access programming and database management
- Has developed at least 1 project involving data migration from MS Access to Oracle database

Systems Analyst – The engagement is for 5 man-months

Scope of Work:

- Review the findings and recommendations of the Final Assessment Report on the Web-based Information Exchange System on ODA
- Conduct systems investigation (SI) on the existing NEDA – ODA systems and related databases, such as ODAMS (Oracle); ODA Loans Data Management System (MS Access); PIS Projects Database (MS Access); and IPAM (MS Access)
- Conduct needs assessment to determine the problems, concerns and other requirements of NEDA
- Based on the needs assessment and SI findings, submit proposed appropriate systems design and technology (features, inputs and outputs of the system) that addresses the objectives of the project. The output of this task is the Functional Analysis and Design (FAD) that will include, at least the following: (a) Background of the project; (b) Objective; (c) Statement of the problem; (d) Process Flow (i.e. Data Flow Diagram); (e) Database Design (i.e. Entity Relationship Diagram)
- Coordinate with NEDA in undertaking project development and completion, e.g. systems investigation, design and development
- Present system design to NEDA for approval
- Upon approval of the system design, prepare program specifications to be used by the Programmers in the development of the systems, based on the format to be provided by NEDA
- Supervise and monitor the deadline and status of the application development
- Ensure that deliverables meet NEDA's needs and requirements
- Provide NEDA with monthly progress reports
- Provide security / backup procedures
- Conduct training on the use and maintenance of the NEDA ODAMS and PPMS in coordination with the designated unit within NEDA
- Ensure that the complete source codes of the Oracle-based ODAMS and PPMS are properly disclosed and turned-over to NEDA
- Submit the following documentations:
 - One (1) copy (soft and hard copy) of ODAMS Technical Manual
 - One (1) copy (soft and hard copy) of PPMS Technical Manual
 - One (1) copy (soft and hard copy) of web-based system Technical Manual
 - One (1) soft copy and two (2) hard copies of ODAMS Users Manual
 - One (1) soft copy and two (2) hard copies of PPMS Users Manual
 - One (1) soft copy and two (2) hard copies of web-based system Users Manual

Qualifications:

- Has at least 2 years experience in systems analysis and design, specifications preparation, systems investigation and functional analysis
- Has handled at least 1 systems development project using Oracle, such as Developer 2000, SQL Plus, TOAD, RDBMS 8/8i
- Has at least 1 year experience in database design and administration
- Has at least 6 months experience in Quality Assurance and Testing
- Has at least 6 months experience in MS Access

Web/ Active Server Pages (ASP) Developer – The engagement is for 2 man-months

- Develop an Interactive web-based ODA Information Exchange System, integrating the fully operational ODAMS and PPMS.
 - Submit appropriate systems design and technology (features, inputs and outputs of the system) that address the objectives of the project, in particular:
 - Making it available to the public (through uploading to NEDA website), information to be accessed depending on the level of user
 - Program/project link-up with implementing/executing agencies
 - Designing web-based links with development partners where they can provide or contribute information on the project/program
 - Providing support to government agencies on budget/resource mobilization; financial management and accountability; and policy development
 - Provision for coordinating activities, such as ODA programming, Consultative Group (CG) Meetings/Philippine Development Forum (PDF), and other ODA related materials (profiles, policies and procedures, facilities, presentations, best practices and lessons learned from other ODA projects and partners)
 - Spatial mapping of programs and projects for physically locating flow of aid on where it goes and if it does support government priorities
 - Provision of a feedback mechanism where the public can send commentary and observations.
 - Present system design to NEDA- Project Management Committee (PMC)³ for approval.
 - Do computer programming based on agreed systems design.
 - Provide documentation on the developed system (e.g. Technical and User's Manual).
- Coordinate with the Systems Analyst (SA) in the web design and development the system.
- Provide 3-month warranty after turn over for all systems developed.

The United Nations strongly encourages applications from qualified women candidates.

While the ODA project offers an equal employment opportunity, only Filipino professionals are invited for these specific posts.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 31 March 2006. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCB Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue 1226 Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. (63 2) 901 0100.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until 31 March 2006.

¹ ODA Monitoring System (ODAMS)-provides status updates and other relevant information on projects supported by ODA that are being implemented by the Philippine government including national government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financing institutions (GFIs), and local government units (LGUs).

² Project Proposal Monitoring System (PPMS) - is a tool to enhance greater transparency and accountability in programming of public investments. It contains information on the details and status of specific public investment programs and projects proposed for funding from Official Development Assistance (ODA) sources and/or proposed for implementation under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme.

³ NEDA Project Management Committee (NEDA-PMC) is composed of Directors and/or Assistant Directors of Public Investment Staff (PIS), Project Monitoring Staff (PMS) and Information Technology Coordination Staff (ITCS).

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Interested candidates are requested to apply personally at the address below for immediate processing of your applications from 8:30 am to 7:00 pm. Please bring your FRIENDS and enjoy PERKS!!!

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JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

VACANCY NO.	: 2006/01
DATE ISSUED	: 19 March 2006
CLOSING DATE	: 03 April 2006
POST TITLE	: Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Officer
ENTRY LEVEL	: NO-C
OFFICE AND LOCATION	: UNAIDS Philippines 31/F Yuchengco Tower, RCB Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT	: Fixed-Term

The Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Officer will work under the supervision and guidance of the UNAIDS National Country Officer and together with the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in the Philippines. Primary responsibility is to strengthen the Joint UN Programme's contribution to effective national leadership and strategic management of HIV/AIDS country programs. This would be done primarily through supporting the development and strengthening of national systems and national capacity to monitor and evaluate HIV/AIDS situations and responses; and to utilize data for programme planning and implementation.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Support the development and strengthening of national Monitoring and Evaluation systems.
- Facilitate and support the collation and use of data to inform policy and strategy on HIV/AIDS, including the mobilization and allocation of national and international resources.
- Linkages with other Units, and inter-tasks:

The M&E Programme Officer will work closely with the Evaluation Unit, the Country Programming and Liaison Division in Geneva and the Regional Support Team, Asia-Pacific in Bangkok, and will act as a member of the global "virtual team" of M&E officers.

M&E Programme Officers may be asked occasionally to undertake assignments on behalf of EVA to represent UNAIDS expertise in the area of M&E, to be cleared by the NCO and UN Theme Group and in collaboration with CRD in Geneva.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Education: Masters degree in public health, business administration, public administration, management, social sciences, demography, development planning, statistics or academic equivalent.

Relevant professional experience: At least 5 years relevant experience in the development, design, and implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems or program management with significant information management content. Experience with international donors, non-governmental development organizations and/or the UN system would be an advantage.

Functional/ technical knowledge: Ability to consolidate information from multiple sources. Demonstrated skill in the formulation, design, development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Able to prepare strategic information for decision makers. Ability to work with basic presentation software, e.g. Microsoft PowerPoint. Ability to achieve consensus and coordination through teambuilding and other methods.

Language: Proficient in English (or in another UN official language depending on the duty station with excellent oral and written English)

Personal Attributes: Strong interpersonal skills, ability to work in cross-cultural environments.

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/undp/ indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title on or before 03 April 2006, and send to:

Human Resources Management Unit
 United Nations Development Programme
 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCB Plaza
 Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

Kindly note that only completed P11 forms will be reviewed. UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and invites Filipino nationals to apply for the post. Women candidates are encouraged to apply. Please note that we will contact only the short-listed candidates.

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- Familiarity in M.S. Office, Word, Excel, Powerpoint

E.D.P./I.T. MANAGER

- Male, Computer Science or Computer Engineering graduate
- Working experience in Hardware and Software maintenance and Networking (LAN Configuration, Database Administration)
- System applications and knowledge for the ff: MS Access/Foxpro, VB/VBA, Oracle, SQL
- Experience in Win2k/Linux, VPN knowledge is a plus
- With supervisory experience

Please send your comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 picture to:

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- \$ with one (1) year solid experience in SAP Project Management Implementation
- \$ with Finance and Accounting Background
- \$ highly knowledgeable in system and analysis designs

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- At least 2 years experience on Road Construction

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Executive Director for Marketing

Shall be responsible for the overall Marketing and communication of BF-E and all of its divisions.

- At least a College Degree in Business Management, Marketing, Communications, Media Studies or related arena. MBA is a plus but not required.
- At least 7 years management experience in corporate marketing environment
- At least 2 years at Management level in a multiple facet company, specifically with some experience in entertainment, arts or digital technology arena
- Excellent project management skills and history

Executive Director for Sales

Shall be responsible for the overall sales of Services and Products of BF-E and all of its divisions.

- Candidate must possess a College Degree in Business Management, Marketing, Communications, Media Studies or related arena. MBA is a plus but not required
- At least 7 years management experience in corporate sales
- At least 2 years at Management level in a multiple facet company, specifically with some experience in entertainment, arts or digital technology arena

Creative Services Director

Shall supervise the design, staging, execution, and tracking of web and print marketing campaigns with a team of web and graphic designers.

- Must possess a College degree in Business Management/Marketing/Graphic Design or equivalent
- At least 7 years management experience in the creative services or corporate marketing environment. Entertainment industry is a plus but not required
- Extensive web, print design, project management, trafficking, and budgeting experience

Junior Sales Manager

Shall be responsible for the strategic planning and coordination of sales campaigns for BF-E at a regional level

- Candidate must possess a College Degree in Business Management, Marketing, Communications, Media Studies or related arena
- At least 3 years entertainment industry related sales experience
- Preferred experience in market segmentation, client profiling and research gathering techniques

Program Director - Film School

Shall create and implement the school program of the International Academy of Film and Television, Inc. (IAFT)

- Candidate must possess a College Degree; Post Graduate Diploma, Master's Degree and/or Doctorate preferred but not required
- Experience in Media, Entertainment, Film
- Experience in the academe, in teaching or administrative capacity; specific to Arts, Film and related studies would be a major plus

Program Director - Performing Arts

Shall create and implement the school program for the International Academy of Performing Arts

- Candidate must possess a College Degree; Post Graduate Diploma, Master's Degree and/or Doctorate preferred but not required
- Experience in performing arts like theater, motion pictures, drama, music, dance, and the like
- Experience in the academe, in teaching or administrative capacity; specific to Arts and related studies would be a major plus

School Director - Film School

Shall create the environment and systems necessary to promote and support the success of the school's program

- Candidate must possess a College Degree; Post Graduate Diploma, Master's Degree and/or Doctorate preferred but not required
- Experience in Media, Entertainment, Film
- Experience in the academe, in teaching or administrative capacity

IAPA Program Coordinator - Performing Arts

Shall be responsible for the day to day administrative and operational activities of the International Academy of Performing Arts school program

- Candidate must possess at least a College Degree
- Experience in performing arts like theater, motion pictures, drama, music, dance, and the like
- Experience in the academe, in an administrative capacity

We are also looking for:

- Marketing Communications Coordinator
- Security and Safety Officer
- Senior Web Developer
- Web Developer

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The Requirements

Interested applicants must have a college degree in Business, Banking and Finance or Economics, preferably with Master's Degree. He/she has a minimum of 3 years relevant work experience in financial accounting and analysis, account management, exposure to operations in banking and credit management. He/she must have excellent marketing presentation and technical writing skills, and exceptional leadership qualities. Substantial exposure to SME market and operations is an advantage.

Please forward your resume and transcript of records on or before 27 March 2006 to:

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- Mechanical / Hydraulic Engineer** - Mechanical Engr. or university deg. of related field with min. 3 yrs exp. in machineries. Experience in designing using 3DCad software (AutoCad). With good background & experience on operation of CNC machines. Fluent in English and knowledge of Arabic language is a plus.
- Production Manager** - Mechanical Engr. with extensive knowledge & 6 yrs exp. of related position. Knowledge in Industrial Engineering, AutoCad & CNC machine operation. Strong leadership skills.
- Sales Manager** - University degree in Mechanical Engr. Min. 5 yrs exp. in sales management. Land and marine machinery repair, spare parts production, steel and metal welding and molding background. Windows environment and auto-cad design literate.
- Electrical Engr. / Technician** - Electrical Engr. or Electrician with voc. degree & 5 yrs related exp.
- Machine Operator (Crank Shaft Machine / CNC Machines)** - Experience all-around Machine Operator with related vocational deg. and good experience in troubleshooting. Candidate should be able to work without supervision. You must have knowledge of auto-cad design.
- Bender / Fitter** - Vocational deg. with 5 yrs related work experience, ability to understand technical drawings and good command of English. Good physical strength to handle heavy materials.
- Welder / Fabricator** - 5 yrs related work experience, ability to understand technical drawings and good command of English. Good physical strength to handle heavy materials.

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITER

For Local Employment

- Office Staff (female)
- Preferably BS Psychology Graduate w/ pleasing personality
- Accounting Clerk/Cashier (female)
- BS Accounting Graduate
- Fresh Graduate is an advantage

*All Applicants must be computer literate

APPLY IN PERSON WITH 2 SETS OF RESUMES w/ DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION, SCHOOL RECORDS, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING CERTIFICATES, 2 PCS 2x2 PICTURES, and COPIES OF VALID PASSPORT, NBI & SOFT COPY OF RESUME (DISKETTE)



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- Willing to be trained
- Dedicated

- 21 to 28 years old
- Computer literate
- Good communication skills,
- Focused and ambitious

Mail, Email or fax your resume at the address/numbers below
(Please confirm with office if resume has been received)

E Banc Trade - G/F Elizabeth Place 332 H.V. Dela Costa St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Phone 02 812 5461 or 02 812 5474 Fax 02 812 5438
ha@ebanctrade.com

For more information about E Banc Trade visit our website: www.ebanctrade.com

SEND YOUR RESUMES INSTANTLY



Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

We are a fast growing company engaged in importation / trade / distribution of pharmaceutical products. We are inviting qualified applicants to fill in the following positions for our expansion program.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Good Moral Character w/ pleasing personality
Excellent communication skills
Computer Literate

Responsible / Hardworking / Assertive and can work with minimum supervision

Must have the ability to handle multiple tasks and responsibilities

Management Trainees

- Male, 23-28 years old
- Must have a College Degree in Business Studies / Management / Marketing
- Flexible, Creative, Proactive, Self-motivated, Results-oriented
- Proficient in Microsoft Applications

Medical Representatives (Field Assignment)

- Female, single, not more than 28 years old. (fresh graduates are also welcome)
- Preferably graduate of BS Science / Marketing / Management or any business-related course.

Marketing Assistants

- Female, single, not more than 28 years old. (fresh graduates are also welcome)

Pharmacists

- Female, single, not more than 28 years old
- Must possess a Professional License in Pharmacy

Accounting Assistants

- Female, single, not more than 25 years old
- BS Accountancy Graduate

Applicants may apply personally at #54 Annapolis Street, Cubao, Quezon City

Contact Number 9128034-35 (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

A Makati based construction and trading firm affiliated with international construction supply & specialty services is looking for the following young, enterprising and talented professionals:

Business Development Officer / Executive

Female, 23 to 30 years old, graduate of architecture or any business related course with pleasing personality. Have at least 4 years related experience. Able to formulate and implement marketing / sales plan including sales strategies. Must be a good sales motivator, have good PR skills and proficient in oral and written communication skills

Project In - Charge

Male, 25 to 35 years old, licensed Civil Engineer with at least 5 years construction related experience. Must be computer literate and proficient in project supervision, project scheduling & knows how to drive.

Quantity Surveyor / Project Coordinator

Female, 23 to 30 years old, preferably civil engineering graduate with at least 4 years experience in QS works & cost control.

Accounting Supervisor / Accounting Head

Female, 25 to 35 years old, accounting graduate with at least 6 years experience in construction & trading business.

Accounting Clerk

Female, 21 to 27 years old, accounting graduate with at least 2 years experience, can work with minimal supervision.

Since these are urgent requirements, qualified applicants are requested to send their application letter & curriculum vitae not later than March 25 to:

Asia-Con Builders, Inc., 8071 Estrella St. San Antonio Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 890-1704 / 899-7397 / 896-3256 e-mail: acbi8071@pltdsl.net



Associated Medical & Clinical Services, Inc.

3rd Floor, Kalayaan Building, Corner Salcedo & Dela Rosa Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Call us at 892-5900-08

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ULTRASOUND SONOGRAPHERS
PSYCHOMETRICIAN
MARKETING STAFF

Please bring 2 copies of your resumé with 1x1 picture & photocopy of credentials. Screening of applicants will start at around 1:00 P.M. Please look for Misel or Sharah. Deadline of application will be on or before April 07, 2006.

WANTED
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for Industrial Equipments and Materials

Fresh graduates, Male/Female
Preferably Mechanical Engineering
Proficient in English, Good character
Willing to undergo training

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KENT INTERNATIONAL TRADING CO., INC.
P.O. BOX 387
GREENHILLS POST OFFICE
SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

WANTED

3D-ARCHITECTURAL

MODELER/RENDERER
(3DS MAX)
Preference - V-RAY knowledgeable

+3D ANIMATOR, Modeller, Texture

1. Minimum of 2 years experience in 3d animation. Experience in traditional animation is an advantage.
2. Proficiency in 3d studio max is a must; working knowledge of After Effects or similar compositing software is an advantage

+FLASH ARTIST

1. Proficiency in flash script is a must
2. Experience in corporate presentation design
3. Working knowledge of After Effects or similar compositing software is an advantage

All applicants must be able to present their portfolios.

Resumés must contain 3 references.

Send resumés at info@danksdesigngroup.com

Global IT and Telecommunications Consulting Company

is expanding its activities in the region and needs a

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

for the Philippine market with the following qualifications:

- Filipino national preferred.
- with in-depth knowledge of the requirements and demands in the telecommunications / IT technical and support functions field of operators and others.
- preferably with several years work experience in the telecommunications / IT field in the Philippines.
- well-connected within the telco / IT industry at the management level in the Philippines.
- aware of the latest developments in the ICT industry, hence knows where the current operators have consulting demand
- familiar with the Service Offering Portfolio of an international ICT consultant.
- knowledgeable of the requirements of a Technical Sales Representative of an international ICT consultancy company, working independently and reporting to the regional office in Bangkok.
- able to provide information of upcoming project opportunities in the relevant fields and to initiate first contacts with the key decision makers of companies concerned.
- good in closely following-up on the status of running proposals and projects.
- capable of supporting the consulting company with all its local requirements for project preparation and execution, e.g. visa requests, opening of bank accounts, housing, transportation, etc.

Applicants are requested to submit their application letter, CV and other relevant documents to Info-Asia-Pacific@detecon.com

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MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION ASSOCIATES

- Certificate in Medical Transcription or previous experience transcribing and editing;
- Excellent English communication skills, both verbal and written;
- No auditory impairment, good listening acuity;
- Computer literate, mastery of word processing software an advantage;
- Typing speed of at least 40 wpm with 95% accuracy;
- Accurately transcribe at least 800-1,000 lines per 8 hour shift;
- Willing to work shifting schedules;
- Highly motivated, and willing to work in a team and take directions.

Interested applicants are invited to send their resumé with a letter of application to hrd@globalquestbpo.com or apply personally at:

GLOBALQUEST BPO
5th Floor Agustín I Bldg.
F. Ortigas Road (formerly Emerald Ave.)
Ortigas Center, Pasig City



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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Item 1: ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications: Graduate in Accountancy
2 years experience in General Accounting
Residence of Muntinlupa, Las Pinas, Paranaque preferred
Knowledge in QuickBooks Pro an advantage

Item 2: MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE

Qualifications: Graduate of any Medical course (Med. Tech. preferred)
2 years marketing/sales experience required
Very good communication skills

Qualified applicants may submit resumé with supporting documents to:

AMPHIL BIO CHEMICALS, INC.
Suite 708 Richville Corporate Tower
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang
Muntinlupa City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 850-1711; 850-1801; Fax: 850-1502



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- HR back office support (Speaks Thai)
- HR back office support (Speaks Mandarin and Cantonese)
- Internet Shopping Company (Email/Chat Support)

Qualifications:

- Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2 year Vocational course
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Support & Leadership Posts

- Operations Managers
- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
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- QA Manager - Six Sigma
- Deputy QA Managers
- Strategic QA Specialists
- Employee Relations Associates
- Assistant Manager - HR
- Assistant Managers - Recruitment
- Manager - Events
- Manager - Communications
- Deputy Manager - EOC Branding
- Financial Analyst
- Financial Planning Manager
- Accounts Payable & Tax Accountant
- Sr. Recruitment Associates - Sourcing
- Sr. Recruitment Associates - Support and Leadership
- Voice and Accent Trainers

Relevant call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.

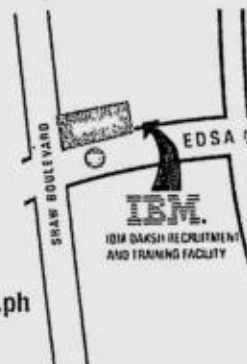
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Management Trainee

- work experience in the field of Marketing, Sales, Operations, Logistics, Franchise
- with 5 years Managerial experience in the Food Industry, Retail Business or Franchise Operations
- willing to travel or assigned anywhere in the Philippines

Research and Development/ Quality Assurance Supervisor

- graduate of Food Tech or any related course
- preferably with supervisory experience in the Food Industry
- willing to travel in Luzon areas

Product Development Assistant/Marketing Services Assistant

- graduate of Marketing or any related course
- preferably with background in Market Research and/or Advertising

Human Resource/Admin Assistant

- graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- preferably with work exposure in recruitment and benefits administration
- computer literate (Windows applications)

Construction Specialist

- graduate of Architecture or Civil Engineering
- knowledgeable in AutoCAD
- willing to travel in Luzon areas

Area Business Development Officers

- graduate of any Business Course
- preferably with work experience in sales and marketing
- willing to travel throughout Luzon

Warehouse Supervisor

- graduate in any four year course
- preferably with supervisory experience in logistics and distribution

Please submit application letter, resume and transcript of records to:
JULIE'S FRANCHISE CORPORATION
A. Rodriguez Avenue corner Ortigas Extension, Rosario, Pasig City or
send email to: manila.recruitment@juliessbakeshop.com.ph
not later than March 31, 2006.

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A leading below-the-line communications company based in Makati is in IMMEDIATE need of the following:

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- Graduates of Marketing, Management, Mass Communication, and other related courses
- Female, 26-30 years old
- Graduates from reputable universities
- With excellent communication skills
- With work experience from leading advertising agencies or marketing firms

EVENT MANAGERS

- College graduates
- Male/Female, 23-30 years old
- With at least 4 years work experience
- With excellent production management capability

PROMO ACTIVATION MANAGERS

- College graduates
- Male / Female, 23-30 years old
- With at least 4 years work experience
- With excellent promo management competency

COPYWRITERS

- College graduates
- Male/Female, 22-30 years old
- Strictly with experience in copywriting and scriptwriting for advertising-related projects
- Well-adept in conceptualization and idea generation

VISUALIZERS

- Graduates of Fine Arts, Advertising, and other related courses
- With at least 2 years work experience from reputable advertising agencies.
- With excellent capability for conceptualization and idea generation
- Mac-proficient and can work under pressure

Interested applicants may personally bring, fax or e-mail their resumes with 2x2 photos and other credentials to:
**# 108 Tordesillas cor. Gallardo Streets
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel No. 812-7108 • Fax: 753-3712
email: recruitment@mme.ph**

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We are inviting qualified applicants for the positions of:

SERVICE ENGINEERS - MECHANICAL

- BS Mechanical Engineering graduate or any relevant course
- Preferably with PRC license
- Computer literate, technical reporting & administrative skills
- Fluent in oral & written English
- Preferably with at least 5 years experience in repair and maintenance of low, medium and high speed diesel engines and their ancillaries including reconditioning of diesel engine components for Power Plant & Ship Power Applications
- Able to analyze and solve product-and-system-related technical problems
- Excellent knowledge on electrical system related to diesel engines
- Must possess valid Passport & Driver's License
- Team leader, customer, service and safety-oriented

SERVICE ENGINEERS - ELECTRICAL

- BSEE / ECE graduate
- Preferably with PRC license
- Fluent in oral & written English
- Preferably with at least 5 years experience in electrical maintenance of diesel Power Plant
- With Hands on practical experience on the following:
 - Instrumentation and Control
 - Synchronous Generator
 - Medium Voltage Switchgear
 - Protection relays
 - Power Transformer
 - Switchyard
- Computer Literate
- With knowledge in PLC both software and hardware
- Must possess valid Passport & Driver's License
- Team leader, customer, service and safety-oriented

Please send your updated Resume not later than **24 March 2006** to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION MANAGER
Wärtsilä Philippines, Inc.

6 Diodo Street, Light Industry & Science Park I, Cabuyao, Laguna
E-mail address: wph@wartsila.com
Visit us at www.wartsila.com/philippines

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PARTY FOR CONTRACTS AND ADMINISTRATION

The Louis Berger Group, Inc., a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, is inviting interested and qualified professionals to submit their expressions of interest and qualifications statement for possible hiring under the GEM Program to primarily manage contracting and contract administration for the survey, design and construction of a number of mid-scale, and community-sized infrastructure projects throughout the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. The projects, which cost anywhere between USD 50K and up to 800K (for mid-scale projects like roads, ports, and bridges); and USD 10K to 49K (for community-sized projects like warehouse/solar packages, barangay road improvement projects, box culverts, trading centers, work sheds, and similar structures), will be contracted in accordance with Part 14 and/or Part 15 of United States Government Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Secondary responsibilities include providing advice and/or oversight on the local procurement of a significant number of commodities including computer hardware, software, vehicles, and other materials, ensuring that these activities are consistent with the applicable FAR provisions and overall USAID policy.

The position requires that the successful candidate be based at the program management office in Davao City and travel extensively throughout the program area for both contract negotiation, and administration purposes. While adequate technical and administrative office support will be provided, the successful candidate is expected to work as a member of a team of professionals particularly in procurement planning and implementation, compose contract-related documents, and other correspondences, as well as oversee similar documents prepared by subordinate contracts specialists, in the form and manner acceptable to USAID of which he/she will maintain counterpart relationships with selected staff. Minimum qualifications include at least fifteen years' experience in development work with a significant number of years' in the contracting field, demonstrated familiarity with working in the conflict affected areas of Mindanao- specifically working with local government units' officials, local contractors/suppliers and in traditionally underserved and conflict-affected communities, a professional command of written and spoken English, and relevant educational and professional experience. A competitive compensation package will be offered to the successful candidate. The contract duration will be for the period through August 2007 with an option to extend the term subject to USAID approval.

Interested individuals may send their responses to the following addresses: The Deputy Chief of Party-Contracts and Administration, GEM Program, 2nd Floor, 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City 8000, Philippines. Responses should include together with their letter of interest, comprehensive biographical data, salary history (and indicate proposed salary), writing samples, and at least three professional references (please indicate contact numbers and addresses or e-mail addresses. The GEM Program is implemented in collaboration with the Mindanao Economic Development Council and seeks to accelerate the peace and economic development in Mindanao.

A leading Energy Company is looking for:

CHEMIST

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Chemical Engineering or Chemistry, preferably licensed.
- Minimum of 3 years experience as analyst/chemist in a power plant
- Demonstrated experience in the analysis of water, coal and oil.
- Working knowledge in personal computer applications.

Responsibilities:

Perform sampling, analysis, preventive and corrective measures on water and steam for power plant's steam generating and cooling systems and auxiliaries.

PLANT OPERATORS

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Mechanical, Electrical or Chemical Engineering, preferably licensed
- Minimum of 2 years generally applicable experience in thermal power plant operations
- Advanced skills in understanding O&M manuals, schematics, and engineering reports
- Working knowledge in personal computer applications

Responsibilities:

Assure the safe and efficient operation of all coal-fired plant features including turbine-generator units and associated mechanical, electrical and computer control systems, while developing a thorough understanding of dispatch, contractual and operational requirements.

INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL TECHNICIANS

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Electrical, Electronics and Communication or Instrumentation and Control Engineering, preferably licensed
- Has extensive exposure in thermal power plant operations
- Working knowledge in computer and plant controls

Responsibilities:

Perform all predictive, preventive and corrective maintenance activities on all plant equipment and is responsible for overall control scheme of boiler, turbine, water and wastewater system, coal and ash handling systems, and other auxiliary systems.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN MARCH 27, 2006.

Please send letter of application and comprehensive resumé to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Unit 1706-1709, Robinsons Equitable Tower
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*** RESERVATION AND TICKETING STAFFS ***

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- WITH MINIMUM 3/5 YEARS IATA CERTIFICATE
- MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH ANY AIRLINES PREFERABLY CEBU PACIFIC / MALAYSIA AIRLINES / CATHAY PACIFIC / THAI AIRWAYS / GULF AIR. KNOWLEDGE OF Galileo, Amadeus, Sabre will be an advantage
- MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN TOUR PROGRAMMING/HOLIDAY PACKAGES
- FREE AIR PASSAGE EVERY 2 YEARS
- FREE ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORT

ARABIAN PEARL GULF SCHOOL BAHRAIN NEEDS TEACHERS ESPECIALISED IN ENGLISH, MATH, SCIENCE, PHYSICS, BIOLOGY AND OTHER RELATED SUBJECTS.

Interested applicants may submit thru e-mail hard and soft copy of their Resumé, School Credentials, Certificates of Employment, Trainings, Seminars, 2x2 and 3R Whole body photo.

FOR MORE INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT OUR ABOVE TELEPHONE NUMBER

WANTED EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

If you are female, single, 23-32 years old, at least 5'3" in height, fair complexioned, presentable, good integrity, responsible, intelligent, excellent oral and written English, college educated (good knowledge of MS Office Applications), willing to travel abroad, with a passion for work and life, a **JOB** is waiting for you in an **INTERNATIONAL COMPANY** with offices in Ortigas, very good working conditions and excellent compensation. **APPLY NOW!** Send your RESUME with PHOTO to careers@cinnovation.ph

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with the following qualifications:

- A degree in Engineering specializing in Mechanical or Civil
- With minimum work experience of 2 years.
- Must have knowledge in design and operation of wastewater treatment plant.
- High sales aptitude and computer literate
- Well-versed in verbal & written in English and Tagalog

You may send your resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 photo, 2 pcs. 1x1 photo, credentials and NBI and Police Clearance to:

Anna Leah R. Evan
Admin Services Division
94 Brgy. Tulo, Calamba City
Laguna 4027

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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Contact Details:
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Tel: (02) 892-1215
(Call between 3:00pm to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday)
Email: quanta@pdlrsl.net

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pr writer**

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Nick Turingan



"West is not just a workplace where you timed in and out every single day. It is a family that molds you to be better in the things that you do. In the last 2 years, West has provided me with a vast variety of opportunities that I never imagined someone my age would have. With West, we can never stop dreaming for excellence. We work hard to turn dreams into reality."

Roxanne "Sal" Decena
Operations Manager

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Qualifications include: Excellent verbal communication skills, minimum of 6 months customer service experience required, ability to acceptably perform on-the-job related assessments.

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- § Graduate of Industrial Engineering
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'How can I improve my performance?'

I JUST GOT A "NEEDS IMPROVEMENT" rating in my performance appraisal from my boss last month. This means that I am not qualified for a salary increase this year. I feel really devastated, but I don't know how to react to this situation.

My boss was not happy with my performance, which he calls "dismal." I tried to reason with him, but he commented that I am only good at making excuses. He advised that instead of making excuses, I should make things happen.

I want to recover from this stigma in my career. I promise myself to do better next time, but I am not sure how I can do that. Can you please teach me how I can stop making excuses and start making things happen?

Repentant Performer

Congratulations for the courage to write about your recent experience. If it is any consolation for you, you are certainly not alone in this predicament. Congratulations, too, for your resolve to recover from a "dismal performance" and perform better next time. Let me give you a general view and advice about

ASK YOUR
CAREER
COUNSELOR
Ernie O.
Cecilia

excuses, as I had mastered the art of making excuses some time in the past.

Excuses

Let us first look at the nature of excuses. Many times, excuses are rationalizations for not being able to do what we are expected to do. They are also a way of making ourselves feel better about not having enough heart and courage. Most often, we use excuses to justify our indecision.

When we make excuses, we tend to be soft and easy with ourselves. Instead of castigating ourselves for falling short, we look for reasons why we did just what we did. Often, we even say that anybody in our shoes would do exactly the same thing we did. In reality, we are never certain of that we can never guess what others would do.

Excuses become necessary

whenever we lack decisive action. Most people often fail to take action for several reasons. The most common reason for inaction is fear. We fear the unknown. We are almost never sure whether or not we will succeed in what we will do. If we fail, we resent the effects of failure.

Lack of decisive action

Another good reason why we often do not take action is that we are not willing to experience pain, inconvenience or discomfort. When people are already in their comfort zone, they tend to avoid change, since change involves some adjustments and irritation before the benefits of change start to be felt.

So, people usually prefer to take the safer option which is not to take action at all. Little do they know that whenever they do not take action, they are still taking an action—the action to do nothing at all.

Common excuses

I have been around for quite a while, and I have witnessed how many people use their age as an excuse for not taking action. "I'm too old for that," is the usual excuse of the elderly. Perhaps, you will be surprised to

know that 66 percent of the most significant achievements in the world today were done by men and women when they were past age 60. Truly, age is not a matter of dates in time, but a state of mind.

Past failures, ours or others, tend to provide us with a convenient excuse for not taking action. How would you feel about doing something where the possibility of failure is greater than that of success?

In most undertakings, if you succeed less than half of the time, you are not that good. In baseball, however, chances are that two out of three tries at bat will result in a strike out. But, in reality, if a professional baseball player has a .333 batting average, he would surely be a league leader.

Doing something for the first time can give us butterflies in the stomach. Recall how toddlers first walk. Of course, we never knew how to walk when we were born. But we learned to walk somehow. I think that babies are able to walk because they do not know that they can't do it—so they just keep trying. Sometimes, they would fall and feel pain, but they get

up again.

A baby does not seem to have the facility to understand its doting parents' instructions on its first walk, but somehow it manages to walk despite the fact that its legs could hardly carry its body. In contrast, adults have the experience and training and yet sometimes they don't have the mind and heart to just do what they ought to do.

(To be continued on April 2.)

(Public service announcement: There will be a grand reunion of all alumni of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in September this year. Alumni in Metro Manila can e-mail me their contact details so that the Organizing Committee can contact them.)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career



ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

A temple within us

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

AMONG the many things that usually distract us from praying well—with mind and heart totally centered in God—is our work. Even the most pious or spiritual among the workers, from the lowest rank to the topmost level guy, and even those whose "work" is mainly religious and pastoral (like the priests, pastors, ministers and others with similar profession), would struggle hard enough to get rid of work related worries and preoccupation in order to bring his hole being into God's presence. Our need for God is innate in us and so vital that, as Jesus in today's Gospel forcefully drove out those which make His "Father's house a marketplace," we would also vigorously clear out whatever prevents us from keeping a sacred "temple or sanctuary" within us. This task is not easy in our working life and even more so in the workplace.

We obviously cannot get rid of working and do away with our means of livelihood and simply sit all day "praying." Even the monks and those who devote themselves to God and the spiritual life, would spend hours on various kinds of work and still successfully manage not only to keep their inner peace but also perform their tasks with excellence—like the monks of old producing wine, chocolates and other stuff of great quality, including valuable works in art and literature.

Following the examples of the monks and those who truly believe in Jesus and feel and think like Him, everyone in the workplace would not need to "drive away" his problems and difficulties at work; rather, he would make them his way of uniting with the Suffering Lord to gain peace and joy for him and for others as well. (E-mail the author at mfv@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS
FOR THE
WORKING SOUL

Gospel: John 2: 13-25

...And to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

The Father's house

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THIS COLUMN appears in the People at Work Section of the paper, which is designed for just that, people at work. Most of the time it's addressed to workers in the ordinary sense of the word. Now being the season of Lent, allow us to focus today on a different breed of workers—the "workers in the vineyard of the Lord"—priests, pastors and ministers who become more visible at this time, conducting retreats and recollections. These gatherings are meant to recharge people spiritually, to encourage them to seek reconciliation with God; they are really a welcome break for people who are usually preoccupied with work of one form or another the rest of the year.

Reading today's Gospel reminded me of these retreats and recollections, pastoral work aimed to bring people to the "Father's house" but which may be turned into marketplaces in the absence of delicadeza. An example is one "Lenten recollection" I attended where the priest's hour-long talk was enhanced by beautiful slides of the Holy Land. It was not an extraordinarily profound talk though it would have been enough for most—accompanied by good photos—but to my disappointment, more talk followed which was not on the agenda. The priest was selling a pilgrimage to the Holy Land! He regaled the audience with stories of past pilgrimages and gave out travel details and call cards. I observed how some people got so excited that the supposed recollection ended up like a product demo at the mall—filled with noise and money-talk. How different it might have been if after his talk/show the priest had led us to some minutes of silence if not to a Holy Hour. But as it happened...? I surmised that such a "recollection" was never meant to be given to the average parishioner who cannot afford a local pilgrimage, let alone one to Israel. I wondered then what Jesus would have done had He been actually present there. (E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

The art of talent management

By Tita Datu Puangco

MY SUPERIOR, WHO IS A FOREIGNER, recently came back from his annual meeting in the United States. He told me to seriously build a talent management system in our company. He assumed that I understood what he was asking from me. I am embarrassed to inquire until I have done some research on the subject.

How can one spot and retain talent? Is talent management similar to succession planning or the identification of high potentials? I already have some difficulty helping manage succession in our company. Some people whom we trained and spent good money for attending MBA School have left the organization. Just like other multinationals our compensation levels are competitive, how come our attrition levels remain relatively high? Please advise.

Talent Manager

You want to know more about talent management. Talent management has its roots in sports and entertainment. Often, talent managers make sure their talent get the best training, the best media exposure and the best deals and rewards. The idea has been imported into the corporate world. Today, the fashionable terms are human capital management or talent management. The basic idea is to think of a talented person not just as a resource or an asset but as capital (better than financial capital) which, given the proper care and environment, can continue to appreciate in value. Human resource practitioners now even talk of achieving a return on capital or talent.

Subir Chowdhury describes talents as "relatively few people who contribute the most to the organization. They have to be recognized, nurtured and leveraged to

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

maximize the positive results that only they can achieve. They contribute more and need to be paid more than knowledge workers."

Based on his definition, I understand talents are people who stand out even among high potentials because they have the unique blend of creativity, competence and excellence vital for a company to succeed. This being the case, your company may need a system beyond management development and succession planning.

Talent economy

In our dynamic, global and competitive environment, people are talking about a talent economy. Recently, I was listening to a CNN broadcast talking about the latest information, technology and computer gadgets in a show in Germany. Clearly, the talents behind the exciting products are cherished and duly rewarded by their companies. They produce value clearly above the people who manufacture and market them.

What drives talents? Clearly, but not solely, rewards and recognition. Talents want the proper environment where their ideas can thrive and where their visions find fruition. They want a workplace where they can be productive and where opportunities and challenges abound.

Chowdhury gives us the formula for talent as Imagination + Knowledge = Innovation. Innovation is the secret of success in today's economy. We have real talent in Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Walt Disney and Michael Dell. Or when we talk of local talent the person who invented the Magic Sing and the person who discov-

ered the beneficial effects of virgin coconut oil. A company has to think what talent drives the success of the company.

Four components

A talent management system would have four components. One is attracting talent. How can your company be a magnet for talent? Attracting talent is a combination of branding and image, talents know the companies that would appreciate and grow them. The key is to treat talent as one would a favored customer. The single activity that a head of a company should not delegate is hiring top talent.

Two is identifying talent. The company can define the best ways. We know there are obvious talents who stand above others. They can also be identified through the typical appraisal system or through a test that serves to surface them.

Three is keeping talent. The company has to maintain the proper environment in which talents can work joyfully and productively while appropriately compensated.

Fourth is managing talent. Just like a talent manager spends time coaching, counseling, ensuring best opportunities and expression, managing a talent to meet his or full potential is necessary.

The challenge for you is to harmonize your system with your high potential system. How do you keep your talents without upsetting your compensation system? Or treat them in a special way without them getting bloated egos or spreading dissatisfaction in the organization.

Finally, I suggest have the humility to ask your boss for clear directions or request for materials and training you need to build a talent management system.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Email advice@ancillaedc.com.ph or call telephone numbers 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)

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MARCH 19, 2006

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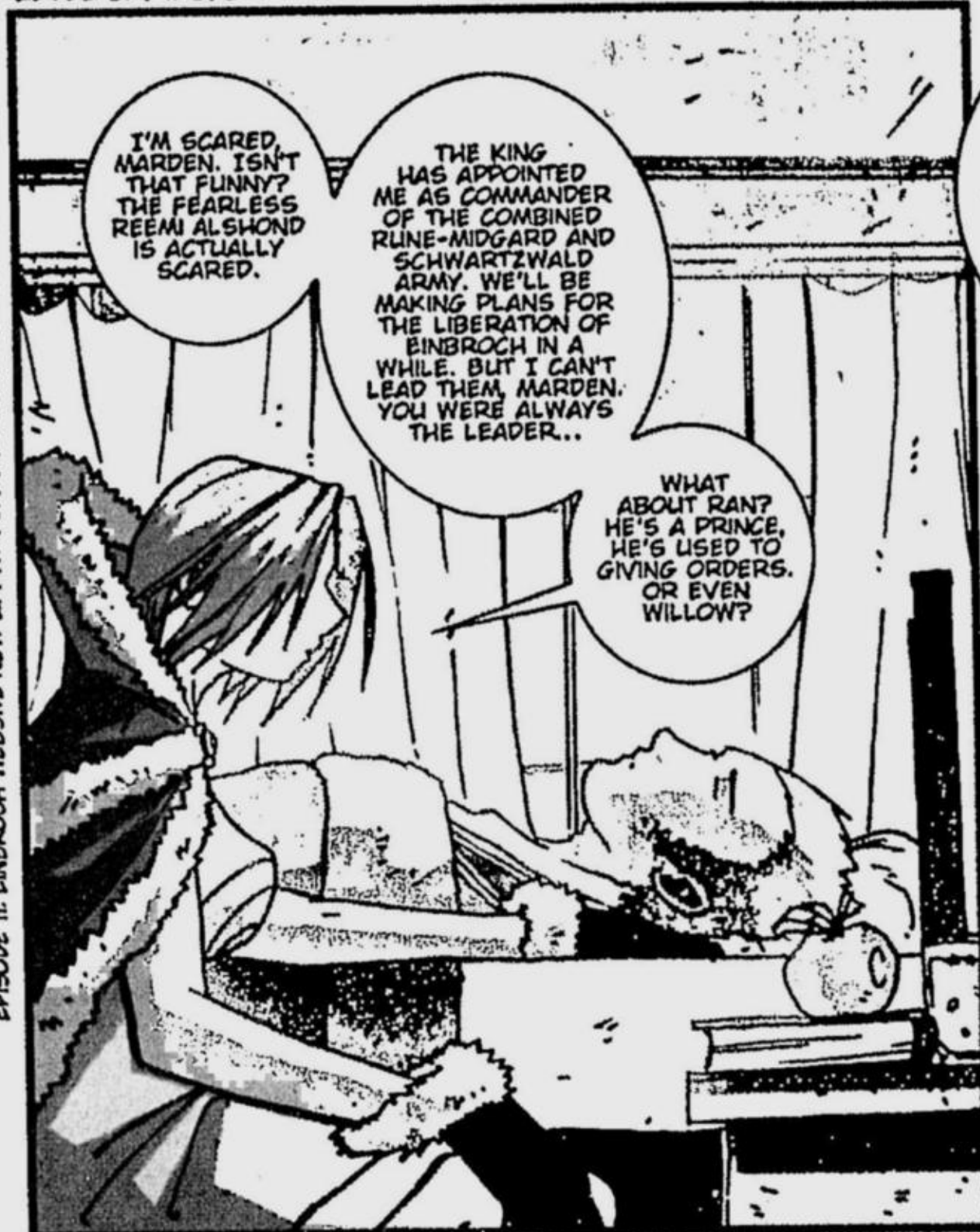
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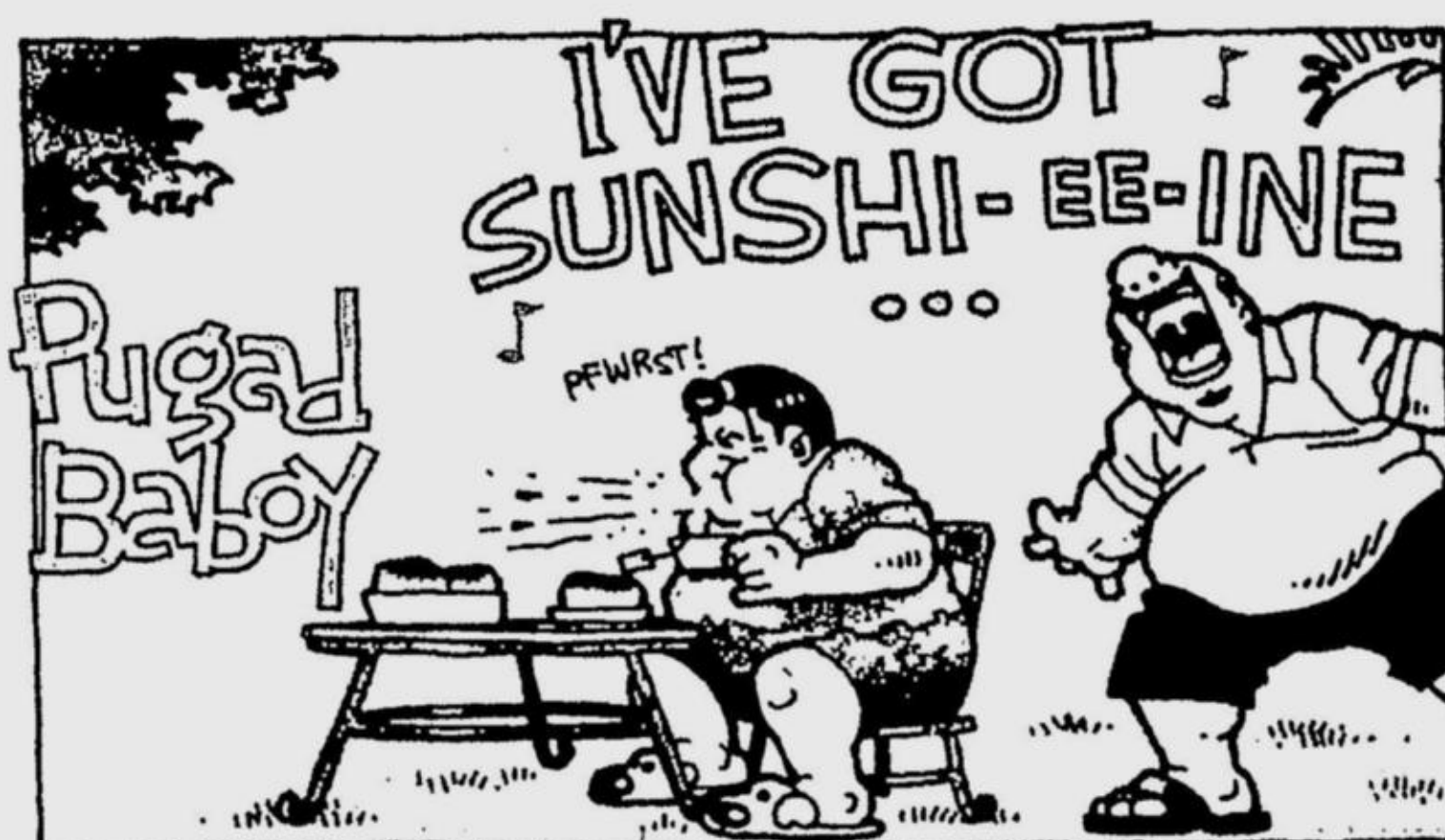
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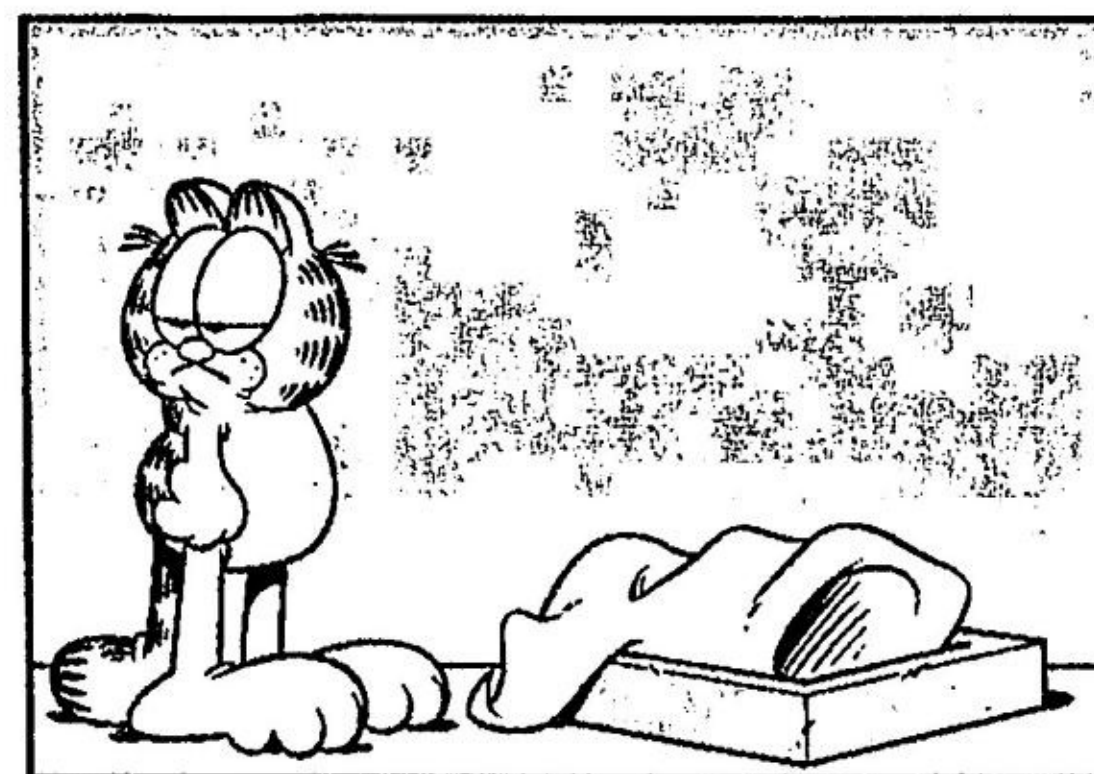
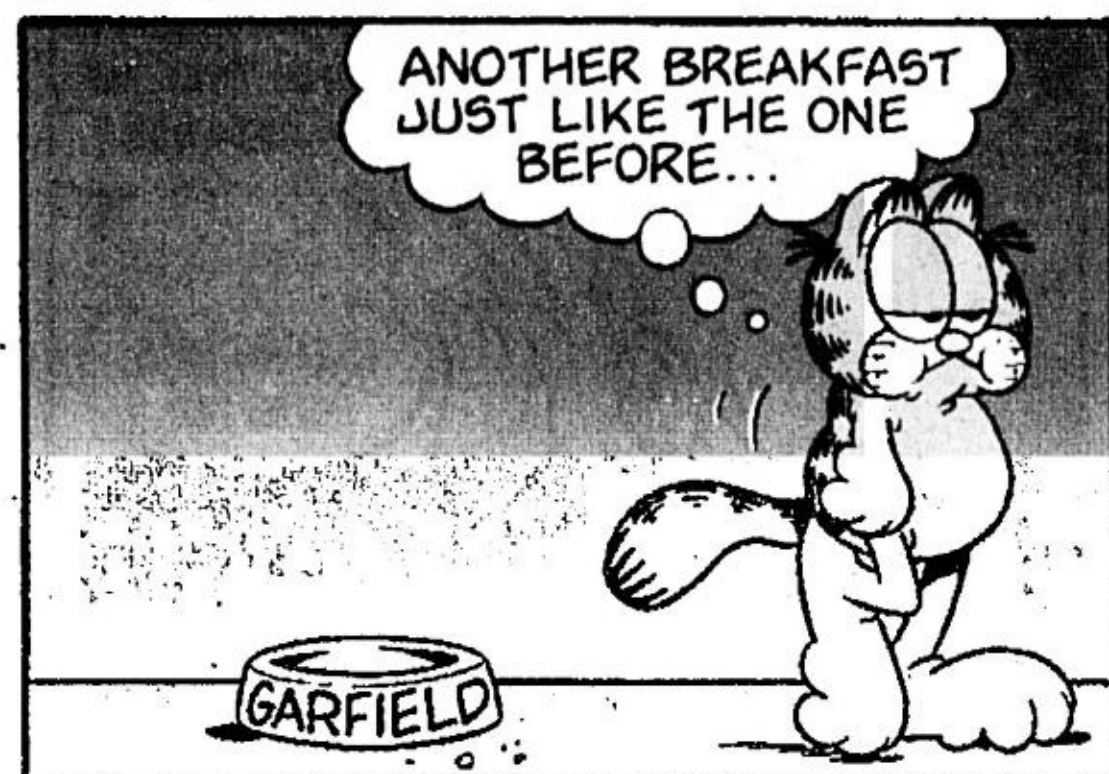


BY MANGO COMICS



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BY JIM DAVIS



FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

A CHILD'S HYMN
Charles Dickens

Hear my prayer, O heavenly Father,
Ere I lay me down to sleep;
Bid Thy angels, pure and holy,
Round my bed their vigil keep.

My sins are heavy, but Thy mercy
Far outweighs them, every one;
Down before Thy cross I cast them,
Trusting in Thy help alone.

Keep me through this night of peril
Underneath its boundless shade;
Take me to Thy rest, I pray Thee,
When my pilgrimage is made.

None shall measure out Thy patience
By the span of human thought;
None shall bound the tender mercies
Which Thy Holy Son has bought.

Pardon all my past transgressions,
Give me strength for days to come;
Guide and guard me with Thy blessing
Till Thy angels bid me home.



March 19, 2006

sunday INQUIRER *magazine*

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

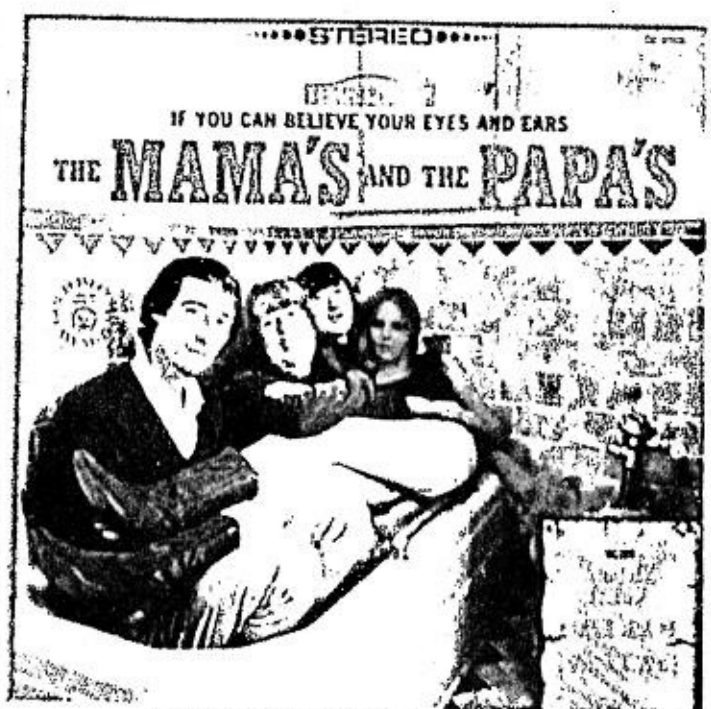
Steve O'Neal

He couldn't afford to see the Beatles,
but now he's raking it in
bringing Filipinos
on the ultimate trip—



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ROLLING STONES LET IT BLEED



This DJ,
businessman
and the
concert
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embarked on
a musical
sentimental
journey with
Pinoy
audiences,
from the
Cascades to
the Zombies



Myrna Yao's fight, p.3

From cement mixer to eyeliner, p.4

Butch Sebastian's climb, p.6

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A DIFFERENT SPACE

My name is Josephine Palencia, the daughter of Dr. Abundio Palencia, whom you wrote an article about months ago ("This Family of Doctors Stays Put Where They're Needed Most First," **SIM**, 26 June 2005). I wanted to first thank you for your thoughtful and kind write-up on my father and the family in general. I also want to clarify and correct the work that I did when I was still at NASA. My work involved working with small and large-scale Beowulf clusters. Though these machines were used for space-related computations, I was not in charge of satellite operations at NASA. I have since moved to Carnegie Mellon University and now work for the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center. It took me a while to send you this note as I was busy with the relocation and new job.

JOSEPHINE PALENCIA
josephin@psc.edu

SUPER MOTHER

The mother of the sensational boxer Manny Pacquiao ("The Champion's Mother," **SIM**, 5 February 2006) must be a boxer, too (only a metaphor) and may even be tougher considering the extraordinary hardships she had while raising the champion-hero and his other siblings. Dionisia must be given a Super Mother Award, if there is any.

LORENZO A. FERNANDEZ, JR.
Lot 3 Block 2 Cecilia Village I, Cabanatuan City
loaferjr2@yahoo.com

GODSPEED, JIM

Dear Mr. Paredes,
When I read your article ("I will return one day to fight another day," **SIM**, 26 February 2006), I was shocked by your decision to migrate with your family to Australia. It was totally unexpected on my part since to me, you are the epitome of a true blue Pinoy, *ika nga, tatak Pinoy!*

As I read your article, I kept on shaking my head in disbelief. I wasn't disappointed with your decision, and I'm not angry or bitter either, but I can't help but feel sad that another brilliant Pinoy is leaving. One less magnificent artist, one less great teacher, and one less passionate citizen.

I just want you to know that I'm happy that you've decided to enrich your life with this new challenge. I am happy too that you'll be another Pinoy who'll shine brightly in Australia and I say this with conviction. I am happy because I know you'll touch many lives there through your music, writing, pictures, and teachings, just like you've touched me and the rest of my generation. Thank you, Mr. Paredes.

Please do remember that when the time comes and you feel like you're alone there in Australia, there is an entire archipelago praying and cheering for your happiness and success!

Godspeed and the best of luck!

JOYCE CABRERA
Pasay City
joycecab@yahoo.com

TO LOVE AGAIN

I was reading some back issues of the INQUIRER and came across your lovely "Twists of Fate" in the February 12 issue of the SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE. It so fascinated me that I read the whole article twice. I could relate to that article because like Terry and Bella, I also am blessed with love the second time around (published in High Blood, April 23, 2001 under "Old Loves"). Unlike Bella, I experienced initial resistance from my five grown-up children when I started dating my former boyfriend a month after he became a widower (I was widowed seven years before). But like both of them, we are still dating (he's 69, I'm 65), don't contemplate marriage, and enjoy each other's families. Thank you for that article.

LITA C. CRUZ
litacc41@yahoo.com

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

SIM strives to pay its valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees — and to avoid an unnecessary trip! — please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

Steve...from page 1

July 4, 1966. Thousands of screaming Filipino fans are packed into the Rizal Memorial Stadium to see the Beatles at their "Rubber Soul"/"Revolver"-era peak.

Outside the stadium, 15-year-old Danee Samonte sits glued to his spot on the sidewalk.

He doesn't have the P30 price of admission—that was a whole month's school allowance for him at the time—but it is enough just to be there, basking in the actual aura of the Fab Four, albeit through concrete stadium walls. He couldn't see them—he could barely hear them through the screaming—but he couldn't remember being this happy or excited before.

Not even the debacle that was to follow—the Beatles being mauled and spat on at the airport by Marcos thugs out to avenge an imagined insult to the First Family—could spoil the experience.

Forty years later, a trace of the excitement remains. "The Beatles only sang for 30 minutes," he recalls. "The opening acts—the Downbeats, the Wing Duo and the Lemons 3—went on for three hours. But the mere fact that you were there, that was the important thing."

Samonte—better known by his radio air name Steve O'Neal—wears his passion for the music of the '60s on his sleeve. And on his walls. His office is a veritable shrine to the Beatles, although Elvis also occupies a prominent niche, and a few other select performers are represented.

In fact, Samonte's collection of rock memorabilia would put any Hard Rock Café to shame. He has actual John Lennon sketches—erotic ones, at that, showing John and Yoko in *flagrante*—framed on one wall.

He has not one, but three copies of the famous, rare "butcher" album. (The initial release of the Beatles' 1966 "Yesterday and Today" album showed the band in butcher's smocks, surrounded by raw meat and dismembered dolls. The fans protested, Capitol promptly recalled the album sleeve and replaced it with a more innocuous one, and collectors soon sent prices of the original skyrocketing. A sealed stereo copy of the "butcher" cover album recently fetched \$65,000 at auction.)

The rest of the stash, including collectible albums, posters, lobby cards, figurines and bubblegum cards—and a souvenir program and poster for the Rizal Memorial Stadium concert—would send any Beatles fanatic into paroxysms of lust and envy.

Next best thing

Clearly, Samonte has come a long way from the boy who couldn't afford a P30 concert ticket.

Of course, the Beatles will never sing together again, but Samonte does the next best thing. As head honcho

of Steve O'Neal Productions, he has tapped into the nostalgia market and rejuvenated the country's formerly flaccid concert industry by resurrecting the idols of his youth.

Indeed, a wave of nostalgia seems to be sweeping the country—as evidenced by recent live performances by, of all people, Andy Williams and Herman's Hermits—and Samonte is surfing high on its crest.

"It all started in 2004," he recalls. "It was February, and there were a few dozen Valentine's Day concerts lined up—Toto, BoyzIIMen, Brian McKnight, Patti Austin, James Ingram. I noticed that there wasn't any entertainment geared toward us, uh, adults."

He broached the subject of promoting concerts by Sixties acts. His friends who were in the entertainment business laughed at him. It was all about the youth market now, they said. Rap and R & B, that's what sells. Who would want to watch those geriatric has-beens?

Quite a few people, as it turns out.

"Most of the fans from the '60s, the baby-boomers, are now accomplished, mid- or top-level executives, or have retired after successful careers," says Samonte.

He sensed that, like him, they retained a soft spot for the music of their youth, and wouldn't mind spending money to relive their memories for one night. He decided to test his theory by bringing in one of his favorite groups.

"I found Pat Upton in Alabama," he recalls. "He was the lead singer of the Spiral Starecase—they were a hit in the late '60s."

To his friends' amazement, the resurrected Spiral Starecase sold out two shows at the Fort and at the Hard Rock Café, out-grossing Toto et. al. All the other acts were competing for the same audience, but Steve O'Neal had the "adult" market sewn up.

As luck would have it, the Ayala Corporation had also licensed the Spiral Starecase's biggest hit "More Today Than Yesterday" to be the theme song for their string of malls, so there was also a little marketing synergy going for them.

The ultimate trips

"Nostalgia is one of the ultimate trips," says Samonte. "When you go to a concert and they sing the songs of your youth, there are tears in your eyes. You remember the days gone by. There are nostalgia tours abroad, but it's just entertainment for most people. But for us Filipinos, there's always a sentimental value attached to it."

Encouraged by the success of the Pat Upton concert, Samonte brought in the Searchers, one of the "British Invasion" groups that followed in the wake of the Beatles, who had a local hit with "Needles and Pins." The concert also did well.

Steve O'Neal Productions' next feat was to engineer the reunion of two of the '60s' more popular singing duos: Peter and Gordon ("World Without Love") and Chad and Jeremy ("Distant Shores").

To page 7



Treasures: Samonte with the infamous Beatles "Butcher" cover and other rare music memorabilia

Movers and Shakers

by Tina Arceo-Dumlao
photographs by August dela Cruz

YRNA Tang-Yao, chairperson of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), first encountered gender discrimination on the day she was born.

Because she was the second daughter, her disappointed father wanted to give her away to his relatives back in China. One daughter, he said then, was more than enough.

It was only due to her mother's pleading that Myrna was allowed to stay with the family in their home in Labo, Camarines Norte.

But staying on meant being raised as a boy.

Yao recalls how she wore her hair short, played patintero (tag) in the streets and even picked fights as well as any boy.

"I really acted like a boy," Yao says, "I was brought up to be like one."

When her younger brother was born, she became all but invisible to her parents, who were busy building their copra trading business, and doting on her brothers.

She was left in the care of the house help who were not really bothered when she contracted an allergy that left her body covered with sores. Her teachers would not even come near her.

But Yao says she did not resent her parents. It was her lot in life to take care of herself, she says, and she accepted it.

Change of luck

Her luck changed, however, the day she picked up a battered image of the Blessed Virgin Mary on her way to school.

When she got home, she cleaned it up and gave it pride of place on her *aparador*, behind a lace curtain.

"I talked to her all the time and it made me feel good," Yao says, "and she gave me everything that I asked for."

Yao's fervent wish as a 7-year-old was to have the best education, good children and the chance to help other people.

She set out to make her dreams come true as soon as possible.

Yao finished her marketing degree in less than four years and immediately ventured into the copra business to help her parents.

At 21, she became the youngest and only woman to be deeply involved in the tricky commodity trading business in Manila.

Her gender may have stirred up the male traders' galantry, she says. "They taught me everything and gave me a lot of advice."

Yao combined their advice with her keen business sense, honed through years of selling all sorts of stuff to her classmates to become one of the best in the business. The family business never had it so good.

Along the way she got married to her boyfriend, who was five years her senior. "He is very mature, a very serious guy," Yao says.

But just when she thought that she has finally proven herself to her father given how she nurtured the copra trading firm, he decided to leave the reins of the business to her brothers.

Her gender got in the way, yet again.

That goaded her to strike out on her own.

Armed with a capital of just P5,000, she bought and sold blouses and knit wear. She modeled her own clothes to try and convince department stores to pick up her products.

Major break

Her first major break, however, came in 1979 when she was awarded a contract to distribute Goodyear products.

Again, at 28, she was the only female among the tire

Raised as a boy. she now fights for

A daughter was more than
enough in this Chinese
family, so second
daughter Myrna Tang-Yao
faced discrimination from
the day she was born



distributors in Manila. She once heard them talking behind her back, saying that she would not last long in the cut-throat business.

In two years, she became the country's biggest tire distributor, accounting for almost 10 percent of Goodyear's manufacturing output in the country at that time.

"I used the techniques I learned in the commodities trading business," Yao says. "I adopted similar strategies."

But despite the success of her tire business, Yao remained restless.

She was looking for a business that had something to do with children. She has always loved them, she says, more so when she started having her own.

Yao found it in Mattel, the maker of the iconic Barbie doll, with whom she entered into business in 1982.

"When I started with Mattel, there were all sorts of barriers," Yao says. "People were telling me that it was a business that was good only during Christmas."

She recalls how the country's top bookstore did not even want to buy a single Barbie doll when she was starting out.

Yao, however, is nothing if not tenacious.

She was relentless in her pursuit of expanding the Mattel business and soon enough, Barbie dolls became inseparable from little girls, and Hotwheels, which produces small toy cars, among others, from little boys.

As a result, her Richwell Trading Corporation has become one of the biggest players in the toy industry, enjoying double-digit growth rates even during hard times.

Giving back

Yao also produces Barbie, Hotwheels, My Scene, Sesame Street, Chicco and Winx shoes and is the licensing agent of Barbie, Garfield and Care Bears in the country.

Yao took care of the operations and the creative part of the business, while her husband took care of finance and administration.

Giving back to a society that has given her so much became her next goal. Yao started out by giving contributions, but she knew it was not enough. She prayed for guidance and one fine day, got her answer.

Yao was appointed chairman of the NCRFW, president of the Filipino-Chinese Federation of Business and Professional Women of the Philippines and board member of the TESDA Women Advisory Council—all at the same time.

"I asked God why He put me in all these positions at the same time," Yao says. "After about a year, He showed me the reason."

Yao believes that she was put in TESDA to impress on women that they have the potential to improve their lot in life, mainly through entrepreneurship.

She believes that women's freedom from oppression lies in their earning their own money and being financially independent.

NCRFW thus listed as one of its projects the marketing of products produced by women's groups, such as the bottled sardines from a women's group in Dipolog.

"In the end, I believe He made me a marketing person to help market the products of the poor," Yao says.

Being chief operating officer of Richwell takes up a good portion of her time, but Yao makes sure she has enough energy, time and effort for her work at the council and other agencies.

Her best compliment, ironically, came from her father, who wanted to give her away. "Before he died, he told me that he never expected a daughter like me to be better than a son," she says. Now, that's success. Q



ETRO Magazine lists Christian M. as one of showbiz's "Ten Most Requested Makeup Stylists" and an assistant and protégé of stylist Jerome Chang. Actor Dennis Trillo credits his transformation into a wartime comfort gay in the movie "Aishite Imasu" to Christian M., helping him bag every Best Actor trophy in town. Zsa Zsa Padilla also claims that what helped her win a Best Actress trophy for "Ako Legal Wife" was Christian's restrained and elegant makeup. Chynna Ortaleza and Nadine Samonte, young talents of GMA-7, trust their clean and unconventional looks to him, as well.

Christian M. (M is for Matutino, his family name, which he decided to abbreviate because he believes he will be taken more seriously without it) is 100 percent heterosexual. He is a working class hero, and a single father to sons Kyle, 4, and Dominic, 7.

I live in Tanza, Cavite," he explains. "The mother of my children, Grace Becher, whom I've known for 12 years, lives just next door. We remain close friends, but I haven't asked her to marry me yet. She has some jealousy issues to grow out of," says Christian with a smile that, from some angles, makes him look like a dead-ringer for actor Yul Servo.

Work ethic

Christian or Tian to his friends and family was born on Aug. 3, 1981. He is the eldest among three brothers and one sister, and their father left the family when his youngest brother was born. At the age of 4, Christian was already working, selling *pandesal* to his classmates or passersby as he walked to school. "I always had a healthy work ethic. I believed in hard work for honest pay. I was thrifty, and was able to contribute a little to my mother, who took care of us."

At 10, Christian moonlighted selling fried peanuts in a neighborhood nightclub. He earned P200 a night. By day, he attended grade school, never being absent, and never getting distracted by a *barkada*. A true good boy, he has never even tried drugs or alcohol, he swears.

He has also tried just about any job that he could get hired for. He was a cement mixer for a construction company, a packer in a grocery store, a controller in a garment factory, a company driver and finally, at age 20, a pedicab driver. Christian was driving the pedicab late one night when Jerome Chang noticed him and his honest, hardworking demeanor. Soon Jerome hired him to be a family driver for his wife and kids.

After two years of accompanying the missus to the market, bringing the kids to school and waiting on Jerome's many styling jobs for weddings, movies and commercials, destiny gave Christian his call slip.

Squeamish

Jerome's styling assistant had disappeared, like many apprentices who quit once they've learned the master's technique. Jerome pleaded with Christian to help him apply the makeup foundation on the wedding party, or they would never make it to the church on time. Not only was Christian squeamish and reluctant, but he couldn't fathom wetting a sponge, rubbing the cake foundation and, with a heavy

YES, he does and NO, he's not gay

It's a long way from mixing cement to applying eyeliner, but makeup stylist Christian M. got there by meeting the right mentor and working hard—probably the only straight man in a glamorous industry dominated by gays



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

What a guy: Working with (clockwise from top) Dawn Zulueta, Carmina Villaroel and Angel Locsin



Makeup tips

So what kind of makeup tips should you expect from a real man, so you'll look your natural best?

- The best foundation is called Cinema Secret. It comes in cake form, and should be applied with clean disposable sponges. It's available at Rustan's. Apply evenly on your t-zone (that's from temple to temple, then down the nose to the chin). Always use a finishing powder to hold your makeup for long hours.

- For lips, start by tracing your lips with a good lipbrush, then fill in with color. Apply lip gloss last. All shades of pink look good on Filipinas.

- When applying blush-on, use a big brush, not the tiny one in the blush case. Angle the brush from the lower ear lobe to the upper lip. Smile, and apply in a circular motion on the apple of the cheek.

- To curl lashes, heat the curler with a blow-dryer for 30 seconds. Use waterproof mascara, though you should avoid applying this on the lower lashes.

- Don't forget to put blush on your jawline and your earlobes, as this will frame your face.

- Don't use eyebrow pencil on your brows! Use eyeshadow with a hard-tip brush.

- Never try to make your nose narrow by putting brown shadows on either side. "It looks terrible," Christian says.

masculine hand, painting the unsuspecting women's faces. But P2,000 for an hour's work seemed much more promising than the P200 a day he got as a driver. Yes, in the beginning, it was the seemingly easy money that led this former factory laborer and cement mixer to wield a lip brush and pat on the blush. And he studied and honed this almost surgical procedure to become what he is today—a good stylist, and probably the only straight guy in the industry.

And yes, Christian admits, he has been propositioned, both by clients and by gay colleagues—but he tells them, most diplomatically, that he'd rather stay friends.

"I noticed gay makeup artists usually do dramatic makeup," he notes. "Mine is subtle and restrained, probably how a man would like to see a woman, with minimal make-up, and perhaps only highlighting her best features. Oh, and I do eyes very well."

Movies and weddings

He also feels comfortable enough to endorse some products. "Shu Uemura has the best eye shadow, MAC is the finishing powder I use, Cinema Secrets has the best concealer and cake foundation, eyeliner can only be Estée Lauder, Chanel for non-smear stay-put mascara, and Maybelline for lipstick," he says.

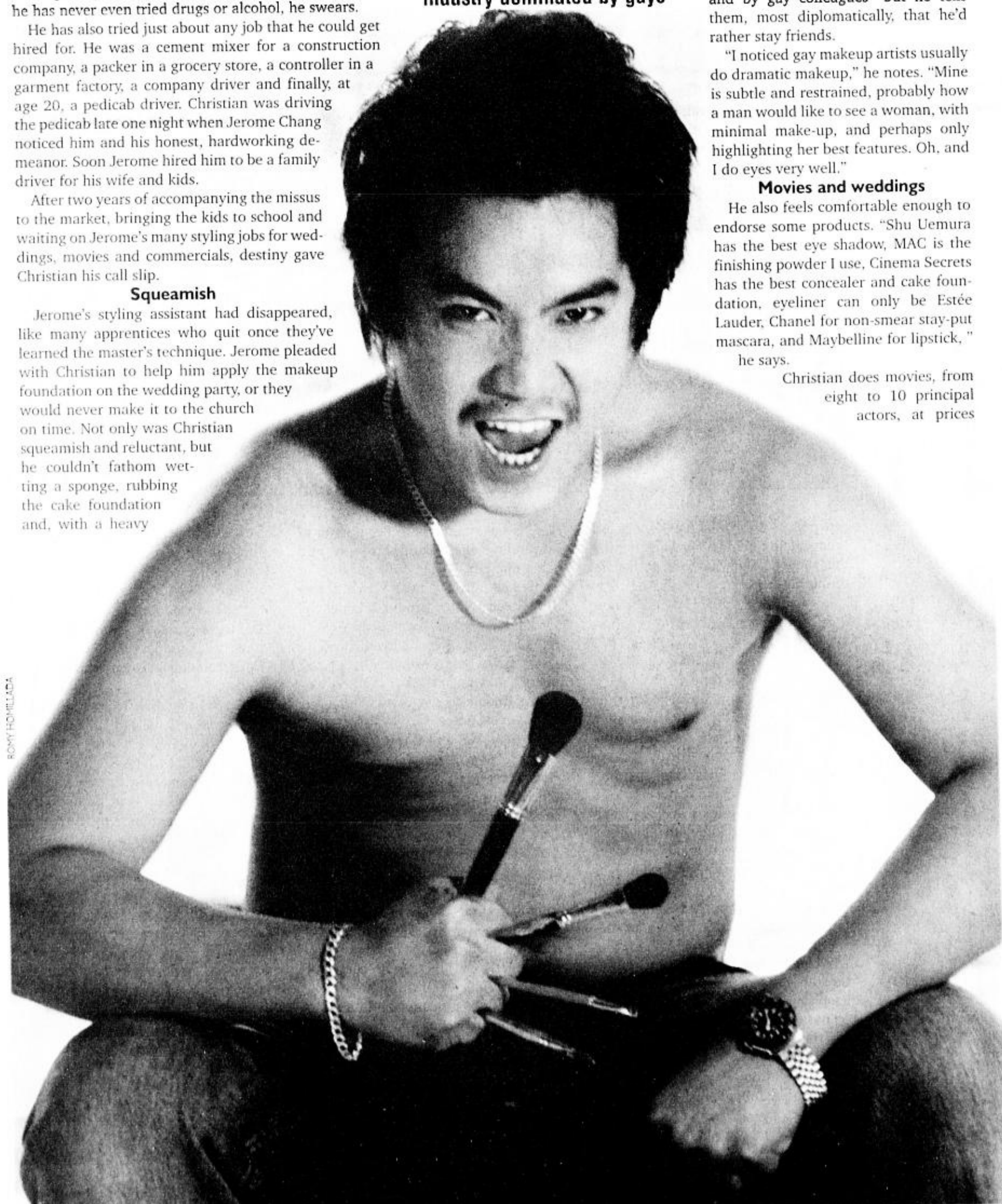
Christian does movies, from eight to 10 principal actors, at prices

available upon request. His bread and butter are weddings, which could cost up to P2,500 per person. He and his boss Jerome Chang are on permanent call for Dr. Vicky Belo. Zsa Zsa Padilla, Dawn Zulueta, and Kuh Ledesma and daughter Isabel. Once he earned P120,000 a day for a commercial starring Maricel Laxa. He is the main makeup man for GMA-7's "Magpakailanman," hosted by Mel Tiangco.

Which only proves that you don't have to be too soft to come up with something pretty.

You can contact Christian at tel. no. 0917-3759921.

He turned Lorna Tolentino into a Chinese leading lady in "Mano Po"





Solid Places

by Cecile Tuble, RC

Two pilgrims, one journey

After a moment, my seatmate on the Cotabato-bound bus turned to me and quietly said, "Who else will help another? What does it cost to act like a human being? What if I, too, would need mercy one day?"

TRAVEL, Pico Iyer defines, is "how we put a face and a voice to the Other and step a little beyond our secondhand images of the alien." For this strictly-armchair explorer, this spectator-sports enthusiast whose idea of "the final frontier" is to switch on the National Geographic Channel, traveling the roads of Mindanao with only God as companion (very faithful, but no help at all in fending off overzealous hawkers or unraveling the mysteries of heavily accented dialects) is an ongoing, rich, albeit reluctant adventure. It is both an outward, sensuous exploration of lands, cultures and people, and an inward, more daunting journey into the solitude of very personal joys and fears, hopes and desires. And yet it is the bridges, the connections—paradoxical and hard to see—between these two journeys that transform ordinary travel into pilgrimage.

I had resolved at the beginning of my Davao assignment never to turn down a ministerial request because it involved inconvenient traveling. Still, this is always a dreaded thing (given my incurable lack of facility in geography and language), so it is always accompanied by a lot of prayer and "fiats." On my very first trip to Cotabato, by the time I got to the bus depot in Davao I was a nervous wreck. This was, of course, not a very good sign of things to come, considering that the depot was only five minutes away from our convent, and it was only the first leg of my journey. Somehow (miraculously) I managed to find the right bus to Kidapawan, get a ticket, and by the time I found a window seat, my guardian angel was a nervous wreck, too.

The grace there was, because I was acutely aware of my fears and my dependence on God, I paid more than the usual attention to his stirrings within. The result was that this unadventurous, incorrigible observer was compelled to participate (a six-hour ride in a jam-packed, non-aircon bus can be very persuasive) and be deeply affected by what was going on around her. I was awed by the wild grandeur of God's creation, and touched by the stark longing for God of simple, ordinary people. Most of all, I was moved by the uncanny way God unerringly finds us, often preferring to gently nudge and prod, coax and woo us into awareness.

On that fateful trip to Cotabato, a young muslim woman caught my eye as she boarded the bus. There was a quiet elegance in her demeanor. She stopped at the empty seat beside me, and her quick glance took in my short hair, T-shirt, blue jeans and the cross around my neck. Her eyes were friendly, questioning, and I responded with a shy smile and moved to make more room for her. She smiled gratefully, sat beside me, and we settled into a companionable silence. About an hour on the road the bus unexpectedly stopped, and a ripple

of surprise and concern passed through the length of the aisle. It seemed another bus had engine trouble and was going to transfer its passengers to ours. Grumbling rose around as people got on and squeezed into the already full bus. One of them was a thin young woman who was lugging what obviously was a very heavy gym bag. Her slight frame could hardly steady her as the bus lurched back on the road, and she nearly fell. My seatmate called her, and we both made room, as best as we could in that two-seater. After about two hours the young woman got off. We watched her, and after a moment my seatmate turned to me and quietly said: "Sino pa ba ang magtutulungan? Ano ba naman ang magpakatao ka, di ba? E kung balang araw, ako naman ang mangangailangan ng awa (Who else will help another? What does it cost to act like a human being? What if I, too, would need mercy one day?)" I could barely muster a reply because I felt my eyes welling up with tears.

For all the books in the world, all the theology classes I could take, cannot compare with what that graced encounter with that compassionate woman gave me. A felt understanding of what "inter-religious dialogue" is all about, and how peace—that elusive gift we dream and yearn and search and pray and work for—is essentially connected with compassion. "Awa" (pity, compassion—that was the very word she had used. I was only a witness of her compassion, and yet she had given me that same precious gift, too. In that very ordinary, small and hidden experience, right there in that Cotabato-bound bus with Mindanao's lovely, breathtaking countryside hurtling outside my window, I had a glimpse of the Kingdom, of how I am part of Christ's unfolding project, and how this woman of a different faith and whose name I do not know, was (still is) truly my sister, one of my own. Then I know in my heart, deeply and fiercely, that God's Goodness fills our world.

Poetry

3 A.M.

As the clock ticks to 3 a.m., the sounds of the city begin to fade: the honking cars and jeeps and buses thin out along EDSA, the cats in heat on the roofs stop screwing, and in smoke-choked videoke bars, the milke conks out, images of bikini-clad ladies blurring into snow. An ambulance siren dwindles in decrescendo until it fades into a mere whimper, and one by one, the cellphones cradled in sweaty palms mysteriously flicker and die after beeping a last gasp. Exactly at 3 a.m., like musicians stilled by a conductor in an orchestra, like a choir suddenly voiceless and holding its breath, everyone is drowned by the purest silence. And so the drunks in the neighborhood are stunned, sobered up by the clarity that silence brings, and couples nesting on cramped beds make love quietly yet intensely, each city-dweller awe-struck by the immense, engulfing silence. In this nightly miracle, does anyone imagine how astounding a moment of no-sound can be? Even the infants wake up from their dreams, marveling at the stillness, and for once, everyone can listen to his own heartbeat.

Rodrigo V. Dela Peña Jr.



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- The message must deal with the appreciation of environment, love of nature, care for the ecology, or a commentary on the natural world.
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- 12-point font size in print
- Contestants should be Filipino citizens living in the Philippines or abroad
- Deadline of submission: June 2, 2006
- TOP THREE POEMS and others will be awarded
- Announcement of winners: July 7, 2006
- Please read more details in our website www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp and use the downloadable Entry Form for submission through.

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Kaluluwa ng
Naghisingalong buwan
Gandang nahimlay



The ghost
Of the dying moon
Beauty at rest

He is hoping to retire at an early age.
Twelve, to be exact.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer supports the drive to help stop child labor. Call Child Justice League at 931-6147.



Survivors' Tales

by Menchu Aquino-Sarmiento

OME 60 years ago, Dorita Holland was celebrating her sixth birthday. She had marked the last three as a prisoner of war in the University of Sto. Tomas interment camp for noncombatant citizens of Allied nations. That February in 1945, there was cause for celebration, as American armed forces had liberated Manila.

As a treat, the GIs offered the 6-year-old a ride around Manila atop a tank. Just then Japanese troops made a last-ditch effort to take back the city and lobbed a grenade at the tank the young Dorita was perched on. For her sixth birthday, the little girl got a foot full of shrapnel and 13 broken bones. She still walks on crutches and suffers chronic pain, but counts herself lucky to have survived. Today, countless Filipino children, among them the Aguirre conjoined twins, Carl and Clarence, are as lucky because of her. Dorita has become one of the chief benefactors of Filipino children who need urgent surgery in the United States.

"I owe my life to my Filipino nanny, Anna," Dorita recalls. "When the Japanese imprisoned us, Anna risked her life to visit us at the interment camp. Visits were allowed once a week for half an hour, and she would squeeze through the crowd to pass on to us whatever little food she had through the iron bars. Throughout the Occupation, our relatives in Connecticut sent us monthly care packages through the Red Cross, but we only got them twice. We later learned all the rest had ended up on the black market. If not for Anna, we would have starved to death. They fed us only twice a day in the weeks before the Americans liberated the camp. Fish heads in watery gruel became a treat," recounts Dorita.

American liberators

She continues: "When the Japanese heard that the American liberators had come, they started shooting at sympathizers who were visiting the prisoners. I often wonder if Anna was among those killed, for we never saw her again."

Before the war, Dorita's father, Albert Edward Holland, was an export and marketing specialist with the Victorias Sugar Milling Corporation, which was then controlled by the Ossorio family, scions of the last Spanish governor general of the Philippines. The wealthy Ossorios had a house in posh Greenwich, Connecticut. Among their worthy neighbors were the Andres Sorianos, the Prescott Bushes, the Rothschilds, the Maxwells, the Kennedys and the Robinsons.

Dorita's maternal family all belonged to what was known as "old money" in those days. Her grandfather, James Robinson, was a founder of Greenwich Country Day, a prep school whose graduates went on to Ivy League universities as a matter of course. With the patriarch Miguel "Uncle Miggy" Ossorio, Grampa Robinson also founded Portsmouth Priory School, a boys' boarding school in Rhode Island.

The vivacious debutante Dorita Frances Robinson (who later became a model for Lord and Taylor) was like the daughter Miguel and Pacita Ossorio never had. It

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dorita has been helping Ariel Sambo—who suffers from phocomelia, a congenital defect—and his family as a Habitat for Humanity Home Partner. The boy's father is also disabled

From child of war to a champion for children

was but natural that her husband Albert Holland should accept a job with Victorias Sugar in the Manila office, in much the same way that American executives of transnational corporations are now posted in other countries.

Not typical

Two of the Ossorio sons were married to Americans. Like other American expatriates, they led a charmed existence in the Ossorio family estate overlooking Manila Bay along Roxas (then called Dewey) Boulevard with its manicured lawns, riding paths and a stable of polo ponies. They dressed for dinner every night, while the Filipino *amahs* kept their offspring out of the way.

Two-year-old Dorita had tiny hand-stitched jodhpurs and custom-made leather riding boots. She and her younger brother had a pony cart and lots of pets. Dorita's *amah* Anna lay beside her every night, gently rubbing her back and singing her to sleep. Such warmth, caring and physical closeness are not typical of American child-raising practices and left a lasting impression on the young Dorita.

This heaven on earth ended when all civilians of Allied nations were herded into the UST interment camp. They were allowed one suitcase each. The Ossorio brothers refused to abandon their American wives and children and

She was born into wealth, but after her Filipino nanny saved her life during the war, Dorita Holland Urrata would eventually pay her back by giving many Filipino kids another chance at life

joined them in prison, too. The Japanese chopped off the finger of a Frenchman standing beside Dorita as they filed into the prison camp. He had momentarily held back when ordered to hand over his gold and ruby signet ring. Such harrowing images are forever seared in the girl's memories of the Philippines. Her family was Catholic, and it pained them to see the European and American nuns deprived of their habits and humiliated by being made to wear shorts and rags just like the rest of them. The Japanese were especially cruel to the Maryknoll priests who were stripped half naked and exposed for hours beneath the blazing sun till wide red blisters covered their pale flesh. Their tormentors then amused themselves by lancing these with their bayonets.

Prized commodity

Despite such horrors, the children played their games, like seeing which one could get as close as possible to the backside of a Japanese sentry without him noticing it. The Japanese soldiers' cigarette stubs were a much-prized commodity. The prisoners' children picked these up and took them back to their parents, who carefully picked out any unsmoked tobacco and rolled up the precious leaves in newspaper. Smoking helped to stave off hunger pangs as parents often gave up their fish head and rice gruel rations so that their growing children might have a bit more.

With her badly mangled foot, Dorita, her mother and younger brother were among the first Americans repatriated. She arrived in San Francisco weighing only 26 lbs, even less than when she had entered the camp as a 3-year-old. Her grandparents wired money so they could stay at the St. Mark, one of the finest hotels, while waiting for her father to arrive. They also sent over a very proper British nanny to look after Dorita and her younger brother. The waiter at the Top of the Mark was floored when the young Dorita ordered "Fish heads and rice gruel" for her dinner. Their new nanny took the children for a walk in the park and was mortified when she couldn't restrain them

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Sayaw Drama Iba

Shall We Dance?

The Celebrity Dance Challenge

Sunday 9 PM

hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC5	ASAPFanatics	Ringdang TV	Ping Pong	PBA	The Buzz	EBuzz	Samsung Sports World	Mundo Magico (Season 1)	Gon! Bulit	Rated K	Mondo Magico (Season 1)	Sports Disaster	TV Patrol World	Shall We Dance? Sharon	Ping Pong	Dance Fever	Sunday Family	CSI: Miami	Anna Tera
ABS-CBN2	Blue Shark	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM	The GIM
AXN	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network	Cartoon Network
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Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime	Crime
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ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN	ESPN
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Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports	Solar Sports
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Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies	Star Movies
Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World	Star World
Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23	Studio 23

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

From child...from page 6

from picking through San Francisco's garbage. They returned to their mother's hotel suite with their pockets and Dorita's pinafore brimming with stubbed out cigarette butts and other castoffs that they had learned to consider as treasures during their years in the camp.

Her early years as a prisoner of war made Dorita stronger. They also made her extraordinarily kinder and more tolerant of human differences. Fifty years ago, in junior high, she shocked the other members of the exclusively WASP Greenwich Yacht Club by inviting a Jewish neighbor to be on her sailing team. Her aristocratic grandmother was not at all pleased when fresh out of college, she married Joe Urrata, a gardener's son who was socially beneath them, and ended the family tradition of naming her daughter Dorita (she is the sixth generation). As a young matron raising three children in Greenwich, Connecticut, she volunteered at a facility for the mentally retarded and handicapped.

Nobler species

Recognizing man's best friend as a far nobler species, she rescued dogs from the Harlem pound and put them up for adoption. She did this too for the pets abandoned or left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. There are times the canine population in her home reaches 20 and many of them share her bed. But it was only after she retired seven years ago that Dorita was able to go full-time into work closest to her heart: helping children in need.

Children's Chance in Connecticut is Dorita's way of giving impoverished children from all over the world the chance to have special medical attention so they can survive and live better lives. She has children from Korea, Haiti, Kosovo, Iraq, Burkina Faso, Palestine and Albania coming into the US for treatment at the best hospitals.

Several years ago, she got the Yale Medical Center to operate for free on a little boy from Catanduanes who had fronto-nasal meningoceles (balloon-like tumors growing from the bridge of his nose). They even did his teeth and put a Caucasian bridge on his newly constructed nose. The Philippine Airlines (PAL) Foundation flew the patient and his escort to the United States for free. When the boy went home, he had six balikbayan boxes full of goodies like a laptop computer, a bicycle, a microwave, air mattresses, even money to

install an electric pump in their backyard so they wouldn't need to line up for water at the village well.

The case of the conjoined Aguirre twins is perhaps the most well known of those handled by the Children's Chance CT and PAL Foundation. Dorita herself called on pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. James Tait Goodrich (yes, of the tire and rubber company) who had been to the Philippines and knew of the Filipinos' dire medical needs. The other doctors who helped were Dr. Raul G. Fores of the Makati Medical Center, Dr. Kenneth Tan of the Cardinal Santos MRI Center and Dr. Willy G. Lopez of the Philippine General Hospital Neuroscience Department.

The Aguirre twins also needed complete cardiopulmonary work-ups before they could be certified as healthy enough to fly. They got these from the first Filipino graduate of Harvard Medical School: the Philippines' very first pediatrician, Dr. Fe del Mundo.

Innocent lives

It turned out that Dorita Holland Urrata and Dr. Del Mundo had a history, too. During World War II, the frail but feisty Del Mundo had prevailed upon the Japanese Commandant to allow her to take the children of the American and European POWs from the camp to the Holy Ghost College in Mendiola. She saved hundreds of innocent lives, Dorita's among them.

Twenty years after the war, Dorita's father Albert Edward Holland, then president of Hobart College in New York, gave Del Mundo the Elizabeth Blackwell Humanitarian Award, after the first American woman doctor who graduated from Hobart College.

Ironically, the biggest hindrance to Dorita's helping the neediest Filipino children has been the unreasonable demands and bureaucratic requirements from our own Social Welfare department, DSWD.

It took a front page INQUIRER story and a personal appeal to then DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman to finally get a DSWD exit permit for an abandoned 10-year-old boy who was getting a free heart surgery in New York.

Similar instances and tussles with the DSWD have caused Dorita to dig deep into her pockets, not only for the children's surgery but also the endless fees that the government agency seems to impose arbitrarily.

It is something that the old woman can hardly understand. After all, all she wants to do is help, because as a child, she, too, once received the gift of life from virtual strangers.

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera



The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes

listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

This Week

Art

Chasing Light and Catching Shadows, a collection of landscape photographs by Carlos L. Esguerra, until March 21 at the lobby of InterContinental Manila.

Authentic Hacienda, an exhibit of paintings done in enamel and silver leaf by Wire Tuazon at Magnet Gallery ABS, The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Quezon City until March 28.

Tranquility in a Multitude of Dots, a collection of six large-scale canvases featuring women in peaceful solitude by Jack Salud, until March 25 at Gallery 139, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center.

Seduction of Images, an exhibit of abstract works by Poch Naval, until March 28 at Magnet Gallery Paseo, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas Avenue corner Sedeño St., Makati City.

Sunprints, a photography exhibit featuring prints developed under natural sunlight, by Julius Clar and Allan Razo, both faculty members of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde School of Design and Arts until March 28 at The Arts Center, 4th floor SM Megamall.

Cinema

The UP Film Institute's women's celebration for March continues with additional screenings for the 16th International Women's Film Festival: Sylvia Chang's "Tempting Heart" (March 20, 2

Kalabasa sa Marso

p.m.); "The Lover" from Marguerite Duras' famed novel (March 21, 2 p.m.) and "The Naked Eye" directed by Vicente Aranda from the prize-winning novel by Fernando Delgado (March 21, 5 p.m.). More screenings for the rest of the month include "If Only" starring Jennifer Love Hewitt on March 20, 5 p.m.; "Red Shoe Diaries" (March 25, 5 p.m.), and "Sensual Feelings" (March 25, 7 p.m.). For queries, call 926-3640 or 926-2722 (telefax).

Atbp

A Hands-on Introductory Course on Figure Making, Fiberglass, Stained Glass and other polyester resin products will be held on March 23-25. Call Polymer Products at 672-9837 for details.

Hip Dance Studio offers gymnastics for kids and teens at 19 Dao St., Bgy. Quirino 3A, Proj. 3, QC. Fee is P1,100 for 7 sessions. For inquiries, call 433-6207 or text (0919) 2156084.

X-manila

Baguio Arts Guild performing arts program is holding an audition for resident actors/dancers on March 25 and 26, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Greenhouse Effect Gallery, Botanical Garden. Please bring an 8x12 half body size photo and a one-page resumé with the following information: Objectives, Personal Data, list of workshops or productions and character references. For actors under 18 years old, please bring a letter of consent from your guardian.

Steve...from page 2

Both concerts were successful, and Samonte decided to go for something closer to his heart.

"For me, the Cascades were the Holy Grail," he says.

The Cascades were, for a time, and in Manila at least, bigger than The Beatles. Schoolchildren learned to sing "The Last Leaf" and "Rhythm of the Rain" in class. Every home had a copy of the "Rhythm of the Rain" album. Their songs were constantly on the radio. Then they dropped off the radar. For a time, a rumor circulated that the entire band had died in a plane crash. Since no one ever heard from the Cascades again, many took it as gospel truth.

"One time, I was playing 'name that tune' in a car with the musical director of the Friends of Distinction when 'Shy Girl' came on," recalls Samonte. "I told him, 'I wish I could have brought the Cascades here, it's too bad they're all dead.' He said, 'What do you mean, dead? We just recorded a disco version of 'Rhythm of the Rain' five years ago!'"

Samonte managed to track down the Cascades' lead singer, John Claude Gummo, in the US, and began to broach the idea to him through e-mail and phone calls. But Gummo said the group hadn't sung together in over 30 years, and in fact, one member had already passed on.

Skeptical crowd

Undeterred, Samonte flew to the US, and after much persistence, finally convinced Gummo—now 66 years old—to come out of retirement and to reform the Cascades, just for the Philippines. After a month of rehearsals, they flew to Manila, where they appeared before a skeptical crowd on local television. The Cascades? Didn't they die in a plane crash?

"When they sang 'Rhythm of the Rain' a capella, people were amazed. *Sila nga!* (It's really them!)" he recalls.

Tapping a deep vein of Pinoy nostalgia, the Cascades concert exceeded all expectations.

"I was shocked that we sold out Araneta," says Samonte. "Even Araneta couldn't believe it. We sold out Cebu and the Hard Rock Café. Then GMA (President Arroyo) wanted to see them, so we had to open another show. The Cascades show perked up the local concert industry. Araneta said they began to get more bookings after that."

No one was laughing anymore. Other promoters wanted to get a slice of the nostalgia pie.

"My partner told me we should bring the Cascades back after three months," he says. "The Cascades had appoint-

ed me their manager for the world, so I'm managing their tours. I thought we would be lucky to fill even one-fourth of the Araneta a second time, so I sold the concert to him. I kicked myself for that—even more people came to see the second show."

Other promoters quickly jumped on the bandwagon and began scouring retirement homes and the stateside nostalgia circuit for other '60s acts they could dose with monkey glands and wheel out on tour. In quick succession came the Beach Boys, the Lettermen, Herman's Hermits, even Paul Anka and 78-year-old Andy Williams.

Someone is even bringing in the Four Aces, or at least their successors, the original members of the Fifties vocal group having died years ago.

For his part, Samonte is taking a break from the '60s, at least for a while. His next big concert will feature 1980s balladeer Rex Smith ("Take My Breath Away," "Let's Make A Memory").

As a result of the nostalgia craze, talent fees have gone up.

"Before, I was all alone in the market, so I could pay rock bottom rates," says Samonte. "Now, because of bidding wars, prices have gone up."

But he says it's all worth it.

"I'm very happy that I've been able to bring them here, the bands I idolized when I was young," he says. "In my own little way, I'm able to share my passion for music with other people. Yes, it's a business, and it can be a very lucrative business if you want it to be. But for me, it goes beyond business. For one thing, I make it a point that I keep my ticket prices low, so people can afford to watch. In Araneta, I go as low as P100 for general admission and P1,600 for the VIP seats."

"The way I do my concerts is also different," he adds. "For instance, for the Zombies, I told Colin Blunstone and Rod Argent, 'These are the songs

that were hits in the Philippines, and it is imperative that you sing them.' And you must sing 'How We Were Before' because it was a huge hit here and people remember it.' Colin said he recorded it and forgot about it 30 minutes later, but I appreciate the fact that they took the effort to rehearse those songs. When he sang 'How We Were Before' as the final number, people were singing along and waving their cellphones in the air."

Rustic ambience

Born in 1951, Samonte grew up in the relatively rustic ambience of Bocaue, Bulacan, in a house surrounded by guava and santol trees. From a young age, he was already glued to the radio, at first to listen to serials such as "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang," and later to classical music. But it was the pop music of his adolescence that took hold and wouldn't let go.

As a teenager Samonte would wake up at 4 a.m. in order to make the two-hour commute from Bocaue to San Beda.

"It was good training, because I learned about life early," he recalls. "It taught me a lot of things in life, like how to be independent."

Not long after his epiphanic concert experience of the Beatles, Samonte knew that he didn't want to just be a music lover, he wanted a career in music. He began to apply for DJ positions at all the radio stations when he was just 17. Everyone rejected him, but he persisted, and finally a mom-and-pop AM station finally caved in and gave him the sign-on slot, 5 a.m. to 6 a.m.

"Back then, radio was a major source of entertainment," he recalls. "If you liked music, you watched concerts, played songs on a jukebox or listened to the radio. And it was feel-good radio, no politics like it is now."

Eventually, he worked his way up the ladder to bigger and better stations, until he landed in DZBM, the

biggest station in the 1970s.

"I first went by the air name Smiling Danee Samonte," he recalls. "I first started using the name Steve O'Neal in 1969, mainly because it sounded good," he says. "But I also went by Charlie Tuna. *Marami akong pangalan* (I have a lot of names). I even called myself The Amazing Bionic Man, and Deep Throat at one time or another."

Surprise hit

In the late 1970s, Samonte even branched out into a music career of his own. Going under the monicker Dan Henry, he recorded a pop ballad called "20 Minutes Before Take-off" which, much to his surprise, became a hit.

He now calls it "the song that made me famous for 20 minutes," although in fact it was much longer than that. First released in 1978, the song proved to be such an FM staple that it was reissued in 1980, again in 1982 and more recently in 2000.

In 1983 he retired from radio to focus on a succession of businesses, from TV production to supplying video equipment to most of the major TV stations. But the Asian financial crisis forced him into early retirement in 2000.

"I wanted to travel, live a simple life, but all of a sudden, I found myself back on radio, doing a weekly DJing program for RJ100FM, together with other DJs from the '70s," he says. "The weekly DJing job became like a passion, and then I branched out into concert production, and here we are."

"I guess there's still a little spark left," he adds. "In life you want to leave a legacy, and I want people to remember me as the man who brought the music of their youth back to them. Up to now, people send me messages saying, 'Thanks for bringing back the group,' 'Thanks for bringing back the memories.' To me that's more than money—the feeling that you've made someone happy."

All in the Game

by Joy Rojas
photographs by Raffy Lerma

DUTCH Sebastian arrives at the Café Lupe restaurant in Edsa, Makati, to rehearse for one of two stunts: a dizzying rappel down the massive 16-storey billboard that looms over commuters plying the Guadalupe route; or a precarious zip from the said billboard to another one across the Pasig River on a harness rigged to a thin cable. Before anything else, however, this story requires him to pose for a picture atop a scaffolding that's a little more than 10 feet off the ground. So why are his hands so cold and clammy?

"I have a fear of heights," deadpans Sebastian, one of several personalities invited to perform a number of derailing-do stunts for the launch of the Rexona For Men Live Extreme event.

He could have fooled us. In local mountaineering circles, the 45-year-old Sebastian is the man to look up to, so to speak. In addition to undergoing alpine climbing courses in the States and conquering small peaks in Nepal, he is, to his knowledge, the first Filipino to make it to Mount Everest's base camp in 1987. The trek to Nepal, which he embarked upon with a friend, took a month and a half to complete.

Philippine team

Come 2007, Sebastian intends to go all the way to the top, as one of the founding members of the Philippine team en route to the world's highest summit. "Somebody has to do it, it's about time," he recalls telling Team Everest co-founder Art Valdez over a drink a few years ago. "So we decided to put it up and recruit who we thought had the best chance of making it."

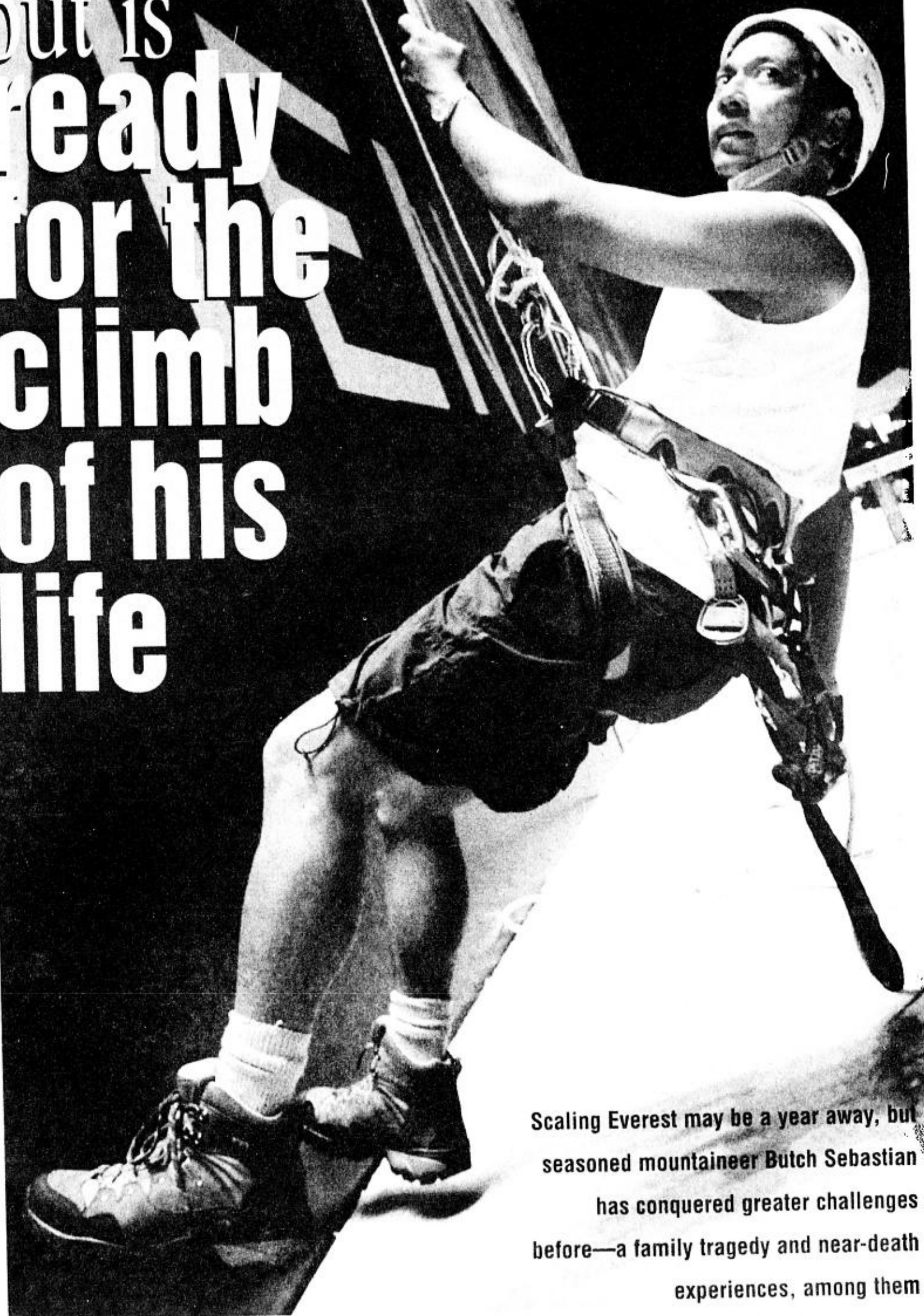
Training climbs to India's Kiyonang Peak, New Zealand's Mount Aylmer, and Mount Muztagh-Ata along the border of Pakistan and China, however, have narrowed the field down even more. With climbs to Nepal and Alaska still slated in the year, one member has already suffered a stroke, while two of the team's toughest guys have opted to go only as far as base camp.

"Everest is not that difficult or technically demanding," assesses Sebastian, a climber since 1977. The real challenge, he stresses, is altitude. "There are just some people who are attuned to it, and some who are not, and you won't know until you get there," he says. "And there's no cure for altitude sickness. You just have to go down." Weather is another adversary. Most deaths on Everest, in fact, have been due to the mountain's fierce winds and biting cold climate.

"Of course I'm afraid!" exclaims Sebastian of what should be his most perilous climb yet. Quitting is not an option, though, as Everest has been on his to-do list, he says, for the longest time.

Growing up in Antipolo, Sebastian had always been an outdoorsy type, one attracted to adventures with the promise of a pure adrenaline rush. The eldest son of an engineer dad and interior designer mom, Ariben ("I made so many enemies because of my name," says the man who was named after the lead protagonist in the novel "Exodus") started with soccer before moving on to sports that

The man Sen. Pia looks up to is afraid of heights, but is ready for the climb of his life



Scaling Everest may be a year away, but seasoned mountaineer Butch Sebastian has conquered greater challenges before—a family tragedy and near-death experiences, among them



jumps to his name; as a paraglider, he taught himself the sport with the aid of a manual in Korean "and a few tumbles down the mountain."

Being outside

Sebastian was 16 when he first scaled Mount Pulag upon the invitation of a friend and with no logistics to speak of. "No tent, no stove, no sleeping bag, no backpack, no climbing shoes. All I had were my maong jacket, jeans, rubber shoes and duffel bag." Nevertheless, Pulag's spectacular weather, lush vegetation and dreamy view spurred him to return to this and other peaks as often as he could. "Masaya," he describes of the mountain-climbing experience. "I like being outside."

For a while, Sebastian thrived in being as close to danger as possible. In his younger years, he and his climbing buddies would take off from their drinking spree and climb Mounts Mayon and Kanlaon while they were erupting. Casualties have resulted from such reckless abandon, and if Sebastian was spared, it was probably because of that nagging feeling he gets right at the brink of disaster. "Basically, there's a lot of macho sh-t in mountain climbing," he admits with a shrug. "But you have to have respect for the mountain. You have to realize that the mountain can kill you. That's why you have to know what you're doing and be prepared."

Day job

With all his experience and exper-

tise, Sebastian, who has been called on many occasions to lead search and rescue missions of missing mountaineers, could, as many of his colleagues had, lived a climber's life. But mountaineering and other sports take a backseat to his day job as a corporate lawyer with his own practice. Thankfully, it is a decision that he has never regretted. "Ang hirap din ng buhay ngayon (Life is hard nowadays)," he says with a shrug.

It was not at the UP College of Law where Sebastian met his wife, future senator Pia Cayetano, but at a wedding of her cousin to his friend. Part of the entourage, Sebastian and Cayetano would continue to see each other socially whenever the newlyweds went out. "Tapos niligawan niya ako (And then she courted me)," he says jokingly.

Sebastian also handles that fact that he is frequently introduced as "the husband of" with a sense of humor. "Nakakainis," he grumbles, feigning irritation. "I've done many things with my life and now that's my only claim to fame." A life in the spotlight, however, is clearly not for Sebastian, who for years consistently eluded interviews and attention for his achievements as a mountaineer. "I prefer being incognito," he says.

Life-changing

It was a family tragedy that thrust this lawyer and dad of two young girls into the public eye. Diagnosed with the rare and fatal disorder trisomy 13,

Gabriel Rene Sebastian, the couple's youngest child and only son, spent six of his nine months in the hospital with a team of specialists on standby. Born with a cleft lip and palate, a hole in his heart, enlarged kidneys and the possibility of being deaf and blind, he passed away in October 2001. To cope, the couple trained for and ran the San Francisco Marathon. They also founded Gabriel Symphony, a non-profit organization that extends support to children born with conditions similar to their son.

Personally, Sebastian drowned his sorrows in alcohol. And being agnostic offered no solutions to his pain. "It was a life-changing experience," he says quietly. "Anything else you can work on, fix or do something about. For the first time, I didn't know what to do."

Sebastian should be in the media again, should the climb to Everest in 2007 go as planned. And while he intends to stay active thereafter (he's gotten into triathlons and, like his wife, biathlons), his mountain-climbing days appear to be numbered. Too many close calls, he sighs. "I might run out of luck. And I realize that as you get older, you get more comfortable, you don't want things too difficult. After a while, I'm, like, 'Kayo na lang (You do it)!'"

Still, the next item on his to-do list is just as heroic, and yes, it will definitely make his palms sweat. "To raise my daughters well," he says of his future pursuit with a smile.